

WRIGHTSBORO CONNECTION

MARCH NEWSLETTER

March 2017 Newsletter

THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR:

Rev. David Hollowell

We find ourselves in the midst of the Lenten season. As I have said, it is a time of reflection and self-examination, as well as a time of self-denial. My prayer is that each of us will use this special time to take an honest look at our relationship with God in an attempt to determine how we might improve and strengthen it.

As we examine our relationship with God, I think it is also appropriate to examine our relationship with His church. I know we have a number of people who are attending WUMC on a regular basis, and we thank God for each and every one of you! But if you have not been baptized or are not a "formal" member, I encourage you to consider taking this step.

I think anytime is a good time to be baptized and/or join the church, but Easter Sunday is especially appropriate. Historically, the season of Lent was a period of preparation for those wishing to be baptized and join the church. It was also an opportunity for those who had separated themselves from the community of faith to be restored to participation in the life of the church, after a period of penitence and forgiveness. Everything came together and

was finalized during the Easter celebration.

A few people have already indicated a desire to be baptized, confirmed and/or join the church this coming Easter, which falls on April 16. If you have been thinking about taking any of these steps, please let me know so we can arrange to sit down and talk about it. And if there are those who would benefit from a quick Confirmation Class, we have time to take care of that as well.

Take some time to consider your relationship with God, as well as His church, and let me know if you would like to get together for a chat.



March Birthdays

2 Russell Leitch
4 Jean Brinson
4 Jada Bybee
7 Tom Carver
7 Ernie Block
7 Lily Crowder
8 Andy Timmons
10 Tiffany Oliver
12 Jim Tyler
13 Mason Chandler
19 Brian Rubright
20 Meghan Hankins
21 Hilda Gainey
21 Charles Harrell
22 Charlotte Jarvis
23 Mike Stephenson
25 Birdie Younginer
26 Dominic Campese
26 Karen Hamm
28 Joseph Steagall
28 Royce Herrman
30 Brad Jordan
31 Katy Leitch



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:

March 19, 26

April 16

May 7, 21, 28

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.

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.

Family Night Come Join Us!

March Menus

1 Hamburgers & Hotdogs
8 Chicken & Pastry
15 Baked Potato Bar & Salad
22 Pot Roast & Vegetables
29 Ravioli Casserole

Menu suggestions are appreciated!

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

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 _____

Day Light Saving Time Begins March 12

March Anniversaries

5 Robb & Stacy Bryn
23 Jerry & Peggy Dalley
25 Tim & Frankie Wilson
26 Brad & Cindy Shoaf

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.



Girl Scouts®

Our Juniors are working to earn their Bronze Award. This is the highest award that can be achieved at the Junior level. They have decided on a project to help the homeless in New Hanover County. The Juniors are collecting donations to assemble Homeless Care Bags. Their goal is to assemble 100 bags!! The items the Juniors need are: travel size toiletries, ready to eat non-perishable food such as peanut butter crackers and granola bars, bottled water, gallon size zip-top bags, and hard candy. Cash donations are also welcomed. For more information contact Heather Noe at heatherno1976@gmail.com. There will be a collection box in the hallway.

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

On Saturday, March 25, the Harbor District will offer the Lay Servant Ministries "Basic Course" at Wesley Memorial UMC in Wilmington from 9am to 5pm. This course is intended to provide any person who is serving in (or considering serving in) a ministry within the United Methodist Church with the most essential and fundamental information that you should know as a United Methodist. This course is the foundation training for all the other courses in the Lay Servant Ministries program. It is meant to provide you with a solid foundation on which you can develop as an effective leader and servant in The United Methodist Church. This is one of the required courses for those pursuing Lay Speaking certification. The Course will include the completion of a mandatory post class assignment.

Topics Include:

- Overview of John Wesley & the formation of the Methodist movement
- The role of laity in the early days of Methodism
- Leadership roles (and tools) for today's lay servant
- Recognizing God's call in your life
- What is meant by the term "Spiritual Gifts"
- Explanation and examples of "Caring Ministries"
- Tips & techniques for effective communication & public speaking
- Exploring evangelism, outreach & hospitality related ministries
- Spiritual formation/renewal
- Overview of Lay Servant Ministries program including the Lay Speaker certification process

REGISTRATION

The course fee is \$25 which includes your lunch meal. Deadline for registrations is March 20 but you'll want to act quickly as this course often fills up fast.

<https://harbordistrictnc.org/lay-servant-ministries-courses-wesley-memorial-umc-wilmington/>

COURSE BOOK

Participants are responsible for ordering their own course book. Please order it soon so you have it for the class. Course book used is "Lay Servant Ministries Basic Course" by Sandy & Brian Jackson and can be ordered for \$7.70.

<https://www.cokesbury.com/product/9780881776263/lay-servant-ministries-basic-course-participants-book/>

Scouting this Month at Wrightsboro



www.nctroop257.org & www.ncpack220.com

- On Sunday 2/26 the Cub Scout Pack and the Boy Scout Troop served Lunch to the members of WUMC. This year we broke away from the traditional spaghetti and featured Eastern North Carolina BBQ, coleslaw, baked beans and hush puppies. The highlight of the event was when Pastor Lynn was surprised with a Birthday cake and ice cream. The Pack and the Troop sponsored this event around the time of the anniversary of scouting to show appreciation to the church for being our chartering organization and giving the scouts a place to call home. This year was a bit different not only with a menu change, but it also allowed Jamison Hart to request funds for his Eagle project - the installation of a new flag pole in front of the church.

- On March 10, 11 & 12 the Pack and Troop are having another combined event, the Crossover of the Arrow of Light Scouts (formerly known as Webelos II's). They will be crossing from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts. The Arrow of Light award is the highest award in Cub Scouts.

- Later in the month of March the Troop will be going to the 100th year anniversary for the Cape Fear Council, at the spring Jamboree at Camp Bowers.

- The Cubs are also preparing for their next camping trip in April.

- Camp cards are here and available. This is a discount card that costs \$5.00 and has better than \$30.00 of return. Contact a leader for the purchase.

Scouting, lighting the path for our future.



2nd Sunday Breakfast March 12th at 7:00am

Guest Speaker: Sheriff Ed McMahon

Bring a friend and join us for food
and fellowship



As the president of the UMW, I would like to encourage all the ladies of Wrightsboro UMC to help support the Wednesday Night

Family Dinner while Tina, our faithful cook and coordinator, is away. Our UMW has volunteered to prepare the dinner on March 29, so please come and help us. We are planning to serve ravioli lasagna, salad, bread and desserts.

We completed many school kits at the last meeting and had a lot of fun laughing and sharing God's love. At our next meeting on March 21, we will begin to assemble supplies to make either birthing kits or layette kits. Doug Johnson will be taking these to the Dominican Republic in the near future, so I will confirm which type of kit is needed most. We are also beginning to plan for the Ladies Tea which is scheduled for May 20 at 1:00pm. Mark your calendar and plan to join us for this annual event.

We thank everyone who has been supporting our Give 5/Read 5 program. This has been a project of WUMC for many years, helping Wrightsboro Elementary School give books to children so they can maintain their interest in reading over the summer.

As I mentioned earlier, our next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 21 at 6:30pm, so please come join us and have a good time in the presence of Christ's love.

Janice Littlejohn, UMW President

MISSIONS @ WRIGHTSBORO

Greetings from the Missions & Outreach Committee where we continue to provide support and show the love of Christ to those who are in need.

This past month our Hand in Hand outreach provided the teachers of Wrightsboro Elementary with tissue boxes for each classroom and cupcakes for the 100th day of school. These tokens of appreciation show we care and are uplifting to the teachers who give so much of themselves to ensure our children are not only educated but feel accepted and loved. We will be discussing ways to expand this ministry so that the whole congregation has an opportunity to participate in the coming school year.

Bright Lights continues to provide food and clothing to the homeless and underprivileged every 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month, as well as a free yard sale on Wednesday mornings. The free yard sale is in conjunction with the Food Pantry and breakfast that is served every Wednesday where we offer assistance for approximately 100 that are food insecure.

Our Backpack Buddies program is supplementing the diets of children who are in food insecure environments at two of our local schools. This will continue through the close of the school year.

A group went to the MERCI Center in early February to work on a variety of conference missions that included flood buckets, school kits and sewing kits. There are plans for another trip on the third Thursday of this month. These kits help those who have been affected by a disaster not only in our area but around the world. The sewing kits have provided women in Liberia with a means to support themselves and get them off the streets where their safety is always a concern.

Also in March the Mission Team will be sending a group to do housing repairs in an area that is still struggling after the recent flooding. Some of our neighbors are still dislocated and staying with family or wherever they can find to provide shelter for themselves and their loved ones.

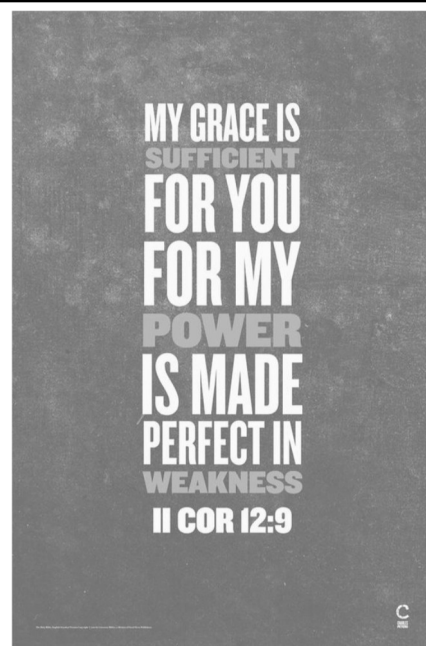
Missions@ Wrightsboro Cont.

Please consider getting involved in the Missions and Outreach of Wrightsboro. There are opportunities for every age. People are hurting everywhere in our world and thirsting for love and acceptance. Will you be the one to offer a cup of water that not only quenches their physical thirst but may lead them to abundant life in our Savior? Jesus said He came to serve, not to be served.

Please see Leigh Parker or anyone on the Missions & Outreach Committee if you feel lead to join us as we strive to be the hands and feet of our Lord.

CRAFTY FRIDAY

The Crafty Friday ladies continue to be active serving the church, community and world missions. We have knitted over 150 caps and made scarves for the Agape boxes for Armenia. We have decided to adopt the Castle Creek Nursing Home and are currently making sock bunnies for each patient for Easter. There are plans to go to Washington, NC, in May to shop at a large craft sale, more about that next month. If you like to do crafts and drink coffee, come out at 9:30 Friday mornings and join us.



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 January 2017:

Total funds taken in: \$ 36,381.25

Of note, this figure includes the following amounts collected:

Deeds of Mercy \$594.00

Hand in Hand \$ 40.00

Bright Lights \$ 25.00

Pastor's Discretionary \$100.00

Total funds spent paying bills: \$31,309.01

Excess at end of month, January 2017 \$ 5,072.24

The outstanding bills at the end of January were \$1,409.73, but have since been paid. You may recall from last month that we were able to pay a large sum on the principal of our mortgage from the October fundraiser. The 12-22-16 payment of \$12,635.11 to pay down the principal on our mortgage, along with our latest regular mortgage payment, brought our current mortgage payout to \$798,807.11. How amazing it is to see us go from over a million dollars in debt, to under eight hundred thousand. Thank you so much to everyone who was involved in the fundraiser and thank you to all who hold steadfast to the vision of the future of Wrightsboro.

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.

"Sing for joy in the LORD, O you righteous ones; Praise is becoming to the upright." Psalm 33:1. "Rejoice at all times." 1 Thessalonians 5:16. "Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you." Philippians 3:1.

Be Blessed,
Kristine Chandler
Finance Chair

Wrightsboro United Methodist Church
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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



2nd Annual Oyster Roast & Shrimp Boil

**Saturday, March 11,
beginning at 4:00pm**

Hosted by the United Methodist Men.

Everyone is invited! There is no charge, but donations to offset the expenses and help with the scholarship fund for this year's graduating High School seniors will be greatly appreciated!

FRIDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP



Friday Night Fellowship is a dinner group that meets the 3rd Friday of the month at a different restaurant. This month you are invited to join us at Blue Surf Café on Friday, March 17 at 6:30pm. Blue Surf Café is located on 250 Racine Dr. Childcare will be provided at the church at 6:00pm. Sign up in the lobby today.