

# THE WRIGHTSBORO CONNECTION

JANUARY NEWSLETTER

## Thoughts from Pastor David...

Happy New Year!!! It's hard to believe that 2018 is officially here. I believe the beginning of a new year is a good time to look back and reflect upon the past year, and also look forward to the new one. It is an opportunity to close out the old year and start fresh with the new one.

We often hear about making New Year's resolutions - plans to improve some aspect of our lives in the coming year. I don't think they are as popular as they once were, but the usual resolutions include such things losing weight, beginning an exercise routine, eating a healthier diet, spending more time with friends and/or family, giving up a bad habit or beginning a good one, and so forth. Anything that helps to improve our health and relationships is certainly commendable, but shouldn't we also be considering how we might improve our spiritual lives and our walk with Christ? After all - if we resolve and strive to be more like Christ, I believe all those other things will fall into place.

I suggest we look at this from two (2) perspectives. First, what do we need to leave behind in the old year and not carry into the new one? Many of us carry around such things as a hurt or grudge that we are reluctant to let go of; or, perhaps an unwillingness to forgive ourselves for something we have done or failed to do. These are heavy and destructive burdens to carry around, and they will hinder our walk with Christ throughout the coming year. We need to leave these behind in the old year, and let them stay there!

Second, what can we add to our lives in the coming year to strengthen our relationship with Christ? Perhaps we could get more involved in serving in His church. Another thought is reaching out more to those around us who need help. We could also work on improving our Bible study habits - both on our own with such things as daily devotions, or by attending Sunday school and/or Bible study on a regular basis. Perhaps we could commit to strengthening our prayer life, setting aside time each day for prayer and meditation and make it a priority. These are just a few things that come to mind, and I'm sure there are many others.

God has blessed us richly during 2017, and I believe even greater blessings are in store for us in 2018. Let's continue to do our part and live into the wonderful plans He has for us!

Grace & peace,  
Pastor David

*You've got  
a new story  
to write. And  
it looks nothing  
like your past.*

## January Birthdays

3 Madelene Groescup  
8 Charles Casey  
9 Ben Shoaf  
19 RC Cannon  
21 Brad Shoaf  
24 Norwood Wolfe  
25 Mandy Shoaf  
26 Cristina Santiago  
28 Mike Brown  
31 Maddie Shoaf

## Prayer Chain

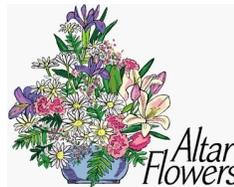
### Have a prayer concern? Who do you contact?

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.



The 2018 Altar Flowers 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 2018.

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

## 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 already done so, 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.

## DVD Ministry

Each week, John Fuller records our 10:50am Worship Service. If you missed worship or would like to share the service 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

But this I call to mind  
and therefore I have  
**Hope:**  
The steadfast  
love of the Lord never ceases;  
his mercies never come to an end;  
they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.



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)



### Wrightsboro Walkers

What a beautiful landscape our loving God provides to us each day. It is an excellent time of year to walk among all He has created. The Wrightsboro Walkers meet at Smith Creek Park under the pavilion each Tuesday and Thursday morning and walk from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m.

The walking trail is paved and measures 1.3 miles around. It takes about an hour to walk around twice (2.6 miles). Walking is great cardiovascular exercise; however, there are benches along the way if there is a need to pause.

You can walk at your own pace and come on either or both days. Please join us! We will see you at the pavilion! If you need more information, please contact Gail Nunn at (910) 742-4412.

### LOOK WHAT YOU DID!

What a blessing our Christmas ministries were this year! I'm sure Jesus is pleased that so many little children were embraced by Wrightsboro UM Church in His name. We were able to furnish gifts and clothing to six children from the Methodist Home for Children; two children and a mother from our Hand in Hand ministry; and two children and a grandmother from a downtown school. Just when we thought we were through, we were given another chance to help a five year old girl. When we learned of her, it wasn't a coincidence that a gift for a five year old girl just happened to have been left behind when all deliveries were made. A doll showed up and also a bike. God truly let us be His hands and feet this Christmas season!

Thank you for your generosity to these children.

Our shut-ins were all visited during the Christmas season with poinsettias, Christmas cookies and even baked turkeys. Communion was given in some instances and hymns sang. We were blessed with every visit.

### Operation Enduring Love

It warms my heart to have seen such a great response for all the gifts of items sent out to our soldiers on the front lines! We put together 7 large boxes full of goodies, even sent Christmas decorations for their tents, and did all this in a month! Imagine what we are capable of next time! Thank you so much! I would also like to inform you of a few outside donors we had. Walmart in Leland donated, Thomlisons Sales donated 60 pair of thick socks, the Azalea Gold Star Mothers gave a very generous donation to shop with. I would like to thank all the children for their beautiful cards! Thank you Kay McClanahan for volunteering to help us pack the boxes! I am so glad to be a part of this mission out reach for our Military! Stay tuned for more programs coming in 2018! Your love speaks volumes!

Yours in Christ,  
Pam Spencer



The Wrightsboro United Methodist Women (WUMW) has had a productive year. We assembled Birthing Kits that "provide essential items to promote a safe, clean delivery and encourage good aftercare" in third world

countries; Sewing Kits that "foster independence and are often the start of a small business which provide a better future not only for one family but for their community as well"; Health Kits that provide basic necessities to people who have been forced to leave their homes due to natural disasters; and School Kits, some of which were distributed to students in NC, SC and TX.

We contributed to Splash Day, Vacation Bible School, Backpack Buddies, The Fall Festival and missions in the US and the world through our Pledge.

We wish to thank all who supported our fund raising activities as this provided the monies that allowed us to invest in the above projects and activities.

Next Meeting, January 9th in Education Building at 6:30 PM. Agenda will include: induction of officers, deciding on projects for 2018, and selecting books for UWM collection

**Green Note for January:** Christmas Tree Recycling: New Hanover County offers free Christmas tree recycling beginning Dec 26 and running through January 15. The county recycles them into mulch or compost. The trees can be dropped off at: Home Depot, 5511 Carolina Beach Road; Home Depot, 210 Eastwood Road; Ogden Park, 225 Ogden Park Drive (near the baseball fields); New Hanover County Landfill, 5210 US Highway 421 North. There will be a designated area at each location for the trees to be neatly stacked.

## January Anniversaries

2 Dick & Laura Jones  
8 Brian Rubright & Leigh Parker  
15 James & Susan Weary

## Signs of Faith!

I have told you many things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:33



There will always be bumps in the road, and Jesus tells us there will be "bumps" in life as well. Fear not! Place your hope in Christ who has overcome sin and death. When driving over bumps, reflect on slowing down and letting God drive your life, giving you a smooth ride.

As we travel there will be bumps. But the bumps do not end the journey nor do they control the destination. When life gets bumpy we need to slow down and remember that Christ has already been down this road. And he has prepared a place for us at the end.

Prayer Heavenly Father, help me accept that there are always bumps in the road of life. Teach me the way of righteousness, that I may follow a road smoothed out with grace and peace. Amen

Everyday we encounter signs along the highway. They give us vital information for our safety and well being. But what if the sign could give us more? When you see a Bump warning sign remember that when life gets bumpy our Christ travels with us. Practice turning the signs along the road into a mini-devotional.



UMM Second  
Sunday Breakfast  
January 14th at 7:30am

All men are invited.

Bring a friend!

## Finance Committee Update:

Greetings Church Family -

Thank you for allowing us to serve the church in this way each month. We consider it a privilege to be charged with such responsibility, and we make every effort to be good stewards. At all times, financial information is available in the church office or by request.

### For the month of November 2017:

Total funds taken in:	\$ 36,631.76
Of note, this figure includes the following amounts collected:	
Food Pantry	\$ 404.97
Building Use	\$ 100.00
Fellowship Hall Renov	\$3,827.00
Family Night	\$ 558.00
Total funds spent paying bills:	\$38,425.90
Deficit for end of month, November 2017	(\$ 1,794.14)

Due to existing funds in bank account, we had the money to cover the deficit this month.

Our current mortgage payout is \$755,186.10.

Total received on Fellowship Hall Renovations thru November was \$36,662.75 and the total spent has been \$21,168.22 for the same period.

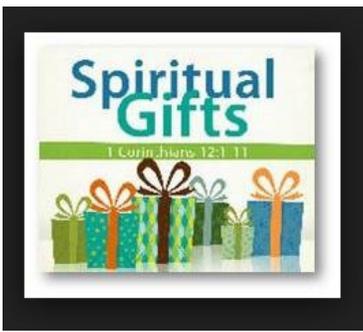
Apportionments are paid on schedule.

Remember to link your Amazon account to WUMC and use Amazon Smiles. This will earn funds for WUMC by simply maintaining your normal shopping habits. It costs nothing to link on Amazon Smiles, and your purchases cost nothing extra. A percentage of all purchases is donated to WUMC, at no cost to the buyers. We have already seen a couple of donations coming to us from Amazon. Please see Stacy if you need help linking your Amazon Smiles account.

Thank you for your faithful tithes, your donations, your gifts, and your prayers.

Kristine Chandler

Finance Chair



## Spiritual Gifts Course Offered in Whiteville

Have you ever wondered what

God is calling you to do? Have you wished that you more clearly understood what your spiritual gifts are and what God wants you to do with them. If so, this course is for you. You'll identify your unique gifts and become more familiar with the many ministry options through which you can use your gifts to serve your church and community. Course book used is "Each One A Minister" by William Carter. The instructor will be Rev. Dr. John Dutton. John did his doctoral theses on Spiritual Gifts and makes each class fun and interactive.

Note: You do not need to take the Lay Servant Ministries Basic course before you take this course. This is one of the required courses for Lay Speaking certification. There is a required pre-class assignment for this course. Instructions for that assignment will be e-mailed to you two weeks prior to the course.

This course will be held at Whiteville UMC in Whiteville on March 17 (9am-5pm). The church address is 902 Pinckney St, Whiteville, NC. Registration cost is \$25 - which includes a lunch meal but not the course book. Contact the church office to register.

## GIVING MADE EASY

Do you find yourself wanting to praise the Lord by giving back to Him a portion of the many blessings He has so generously showered upon you? Have you been sitting in the pew when the collection plate is being passed and you realize you have little or no cash and you don't carry a checkbook? Have you been out of town or sick on Sunday and not sure how to handle your weekly tithe in those instances? We have all been there.

The church office will provide you a self-addressed envelope upon request, if you wish to mail a check. But why not utilize the online giving option? Online giving is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It can be accessed by going to the church website, [www.wrightsboroumc.org](http://www.wrightsboroumc.org), and choosing "click & pledge" in the upper right corner, or by clicking the link, "click here to give online", in the weekly announcement email.

Simply pick the amount of your tithe or offering and where you wish the funds to be applied, check out and you are done. You can even elect to set it up as a recurring payment to ensure the funds are sent each week without any extra work on your part.

What an easy way to ensure the missions of WUMC are able to continue and grow. I am proud that we offer multiple options for our congregation, and I encourage you to at least check it out to see if it would be a good fit for you.

## Family Night

Thank you again to everybody who helped me in December. I do appreciate that a lot. I am still in need of volunteers for cooks and cleaners, this month we have 5 Wednesdays. Please come see me.

January menus:

3rd Cancelled

10th Shepherd's Pie

17th Baked Chicken, Potato Wedges

24th Spaghetti & Meatballs

31st Pork Tenderloin & Mashed Potato

Therefore  
if anyone  
is in Christ,  
the new creation  
has come:  
The old has gone,  
the new is here!  
2 Corinthians 5:17

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