



THE MESSENGER
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
601 NORTH PINK STREET
CHERRYVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA 28021
Phone (704) 435-6732 Fax (704) 435-4468
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December 29, 2022

Vol. XXXIII No. 12

Rev. Zack Christy
Pastor

Teresa Gardo
Administrative Assistant

Bess Thornburg
Director of Christian Education

Nancy Catena
Organist (Interim)

Linda Barger
Chancel Choir Director

Andrew Harmon
Handbell Director

Mildred Young
FUMC Weekday Preschool Dir.

Matthew 17:20 "Jesus said to the disciples, 'For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, move from here to there and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.'"

There are many aspects of God that we talk about in the life of the church. We talk about the love of God, the grace of God, the peace of God, but there is one attribute that I don't think gets enough credit, it's the *sneakiness* of God. I don't mean to suggest that God is playing tricks or anything like that, but God has a way of accomplishing his will in ways that we don't always perceive.

In Seminary Will Willimon was my favorite professor not because he was the smartest or had it all figured out, but because he taught like a pastor, not a professor. Often he would say "God will use any handle to get hold of somebody." Divine, persistence and resourcefulness are according to Scripture virtually without limits. In order to illustrate his point he shared with us the story of Rev. Bessie Parker, who was the handle that God used to take hold of the South Carolina Annual Conference for more than three decades, until her death in the early 1990's though her legend still persists.

She became a pastor in 1956, the first woman in the South East jurisdiction of the UMC to do so. She was famous for wearing out automobiles the same way circuit riders would wear out horses, routinely putting 30,000 miles on her cars a year. Although she had a reputation as a fiery and inspiring preacher, she was the bane of the bishops, they couldn't quite figure out what to do with her. Churches complained when they heard they were getting a "lady preacher" and they fought even harder when the bishop dared to move "our dear Preacher Parker" somewhere else.

With her snow-white hair and soothing southern drawl, she epitomized everyone's stereotype of a southern grandmother. Make no mistake she knew how to use this power. Preachers would line up to enlist Bessie to lead their annual mission fund appeals because she would get a better response than any other preacher. When one church repeatedly refused to fix its leaking church roof, the members were scandalized one Monday morning by the sight of their pastor, white hair, blue jeans, and all atop the roof, hammering away. The roof was quickly fixed with everyone's assistance. "It just don't look right to have your grandmother up fixing your roof" one church officer commented.

Toward the end of her ministry, the bishop sent Bessie to a very difficult church, one infamous for feuding, contentiousness, bigotry, and animosity towards the entire denomination. Before Bessie arrived, the church had run off two preachers in six months. Members had consistently refused to send any money to support denominational programs, specifically the apportionment that went towards scholarships for

African Americans. The Bishop seemed cruel to send Bessie into this environment, everyone predicted disaster.

A few months passed without anyone hearing from Bessie. When Rev. Willimon saw her at meeting, he approached her cautiously fearing the worse. He asked her how it was going?

To his surprise she said, "They are the sweetest people I have ever known! Our first work team will leave for Brazil next month. I have to get back early. This is our music weekend with the AMEZ congregation."

Dumbfounded, Willimon asked her, "Are you talking about the same church, what about its hatefulness, its bigotry? Had there been no problems?"

"Not really" replied Bessie, "Well...there was one little misunderstanding when we voted on this years budget."

"Misunderstanding?" questioned Willimon.

"Yes. We got to the apportionment for the black college fund. When we were about to vote on acceptance, the chairman of our board said, 'Rev. Parker, we don't give no money to that, because we ain't paying for *them* to go to college.'"

"That's awful! What did you do?" Willimon asked.

"I said, John, that's not nice. You sit down and act like a Christian. The whole budget passed without a single problem."

After all who is going to misbehave in front of their grandmother?

Friends as we enter a new year full of hope, prayer, and expectations, may we not lose sight of the amazing ways that God is making inroads in our lives, in our church, and in our community. God hasn't left us to our own devices; God continues to come into our lives sometimes in ways that are almost imperceptible. May we keep our eyes open and our ears to the ground this year in order that we don't miss out on the mustard seeds God lays in front of us. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Grace and Peace,

Zack Christy



The Backpack Ministry is in need of the items listed below of nonperishable items to put in book bags during the month of January.

Thank you to all who assist with this program. Your generous donations help this mission to be successful and are very much appreciated by those who receive the book bags. We can always use these items, but sometimes the list may change based on the supply of goods we have on hand.

- Jan. 1 Chicken Romen Noodles
- Jan. 8 Macaroni & Cheese
- Jan. 15 Canned Peaches
- Jan. 22 Tuna Helper
- Jan. 29 Spam

Thank you,
The Backpack Ministry Committee



CHILDREN'S CHURCH

CHILDREN'S CHURCH during our 10:30 worship service is for all children **3yrs thru 3rd grade**. The children will leave from the sanctuary

worship service following the children's sermon and go to the classroom on the educational hall for lessons and crafts. Parents can pick-up their children and the end of worship.

REMINDER: A packet will be available outside the sanctuary in the Narthex for children 4th-5th grades with pencils crayons and coloring pages and a Children's worship bulletin as you learn to remain in the sanctuary for worship. Please let Bess know if you are willing to help with children's church.



ACOLYTE/CRUCIFER TRAINING JANUARY 4TH AT 11:00AM

Thanks to all that have served as acolyte and crucifer this past year! It is time to hold a new acolyte training and crucifer class to learn and refresh and practice the presentation of the light and the cross in our service. This class will be held on Wednesday, January 4th at 11:00 am in the church sanctuary. Even if you have attended class and have been trained in the past, it is still **very important that you be at this meeting**. We will be working on the acolyte and crucifer working together to **correctly** present and extinguish the light and the cross. All 4th through 12th graders are invited to attend this class and serve your church during worship.

Jan. 1	Mallie Emerson	Alayna Ross
Jan. 8	Will Fowler	Kenan Fowler
Jan. 15	Lydia Bradley	Sophia Williams
Jan. 22	Ayden Canipe	Bella Thornburg
Jan. 29	Zach Harmon	Amber Grace Britain



UMK's: Our Wednesday night UMK's will begin again for the winter session beginning January 11th. We will meet in the fellowship hall each Wednesday evening at 6:00 pm for our supper/game time, and at 6:30 move in to sanctuary for object lessons, skits, singing and offering. Then from 7:00 to 7:25 we will have bible study and lesson time down stairs. Then back up to the sanctuary for vespers and closing prayers. All 3-year-old thru 5th graders are invited to come and join in the fun with our United Methodist Kids from 6:00 – 7:30pm. For the winter months we will enter at the side door near the kitchen and leave from there also.

UMK Lesson Schedule for January:

Jan. 11	New Year's Resolution/Serve Others	Luke:10:25-37
Jan. 18	New Year/New You	Luke 12:13-31
Jan. 25	Chill/Keeping Our Cool	Daniel 6:10-27

UMK SUPPER SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY

Jan. 11	Chicken nuggets, chips, ice cream sandwiches
Jan. 18	Soup and Sandwiches, cookies
Jan. 25	Corn Dogs, Mac-n--Cheese, fruit cups
	Ethleen Dover SS class

**NOTE: UMK SUPPER MENU
IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.....**

If anyone would like to volunteer to prepare and serve UMK Suppers please let Bess know! Thanks to all those who have so willingly served and provided supper during the year!!



UMYF: Regular UMYF meetings will be happening at the church, downstairs in the youth room at 6:00 pm until 7:30 beginning again January 8th. We have a

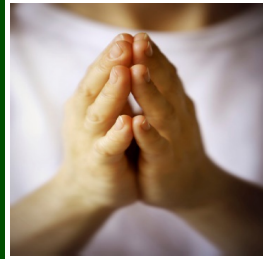
great time together eating, studying God's word and of course playing hide and go seek, sardines' style and other whacky games. We are again planning for the 2023 year's activities with our UMYF - "FUMCY" characters! We are continuing to work on our Bible Scavenger Hunt lessons, skits, games and crafts. Our group is growing and we welcome all 6th thru 12th graders!

We have many activities and **Mission Possible** opportunities for the group in the coming months. We are still trying to stock the blessing box with food and with toiletries. We were able to shop and help with 2 families this Christmas. We are also are planning some housekeeping projects at the church to get our Youth room organized, closet cleanout and get the "Adventure Van" cleaned up for future use!!

We are so excited to attend the **EDGE** student & leaders conference 2023, to be held Jan. 14 - 16 at **Ridgecrest, NC**. This will be a worship filled weekend of fun and gospel centered activities for students and adult leaders. We will leave on the Adventure Van at 2:00 pm Saturday, January 14, from the church. We will return Monday, Jan. 16, around 1:30 ish. We will be staying 2 nights. The cost is \$50.00 per person plus extra snack money and money for lunch on the way home.

This includes 5 meals and 2 nights lodging. We have raised money to help cover expenses for the retreat and so far we have 8 people who plan to go. Please let Bess know ASAP if you are definitely going on the retreat!

UMYF is for all middle and high school youths. Please read and follow your FUMCY text for more details.



Thursday Morning Prayer Breakfast

The Thursday morning prayer breakfast will resume on Thursday morning January 12th at 7:00 a.m. at Homefolks Café. Everyone is welcome!

Especially students and parents and grandparents are invited to share a good healthy breakfast before school and food for the soul as you go about your day. A devotion and prayer time is offered for all those that wish to begin their day in fellowship and prayer with other Christians in the community. **THERE WILL BE NO PRAYER BREAKFAST on JANUARY 5TH**. Please NOTE: Miss Bess will drive

our church van and will take any middle school and/or high school students that need a ride to school. **BUT watch out for the BUMPS!!! LOL ☺**



Breakfast

On **Saturday, January 28**, we will have our Community Breakfast. Serving times will be from 7:30 - 10:30 a.m. Come join us for a time of fellowship and a delicious all you can eat breakfast buffet. Cost will be by donation. Our profits have gone toward assisting our local community by giving to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund and also to the local "Handy Man's Ministry" for helping with minor repairs to homes.



We gratefully acknowledge gifts presented to the church in loving memory of:

BILLY ALEXANDER

Stan & Martha Allen
Linda Barger
Joyce Baxter
Greg & Pat Beam
Jack & Judy Bingham
Olin & Kay Bumgarner
Cotton & Pam Crowder
Barry & Wanda Dellinger
Tim & Robin Eubanks
Bob & Marie Ferguson
Juanita Gunnell
Reid & Doris Huss
Mike & Barbara Jones
Morris, Marsha & Brent Keeter
David & Louanna Kiser
Dr. & Mrs. Chris Madison
Ray McSwain
Janice Metcalf
Steve & Patty Owens
Sarah Hopkins Saunders & Family
Terry & Rene Slaughter &
 Marie Gouge & Jeff & Sus Gouge
Vernon & Betty Smith
Bill Sneed
David & Martha Williard

CARYL AUSTELL

Joyce Baxter
Olin & Kay Bumgarner
Jack & Carolyn Cooke
Curtis Harrelson
Larry & Carol Helms
Bill Sneed

BEN BALLARD

John & Linda Dellinger
Curtis & Wendy Holt
Lance Holt
Sheila Houser
Jerry Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)
Robert & Shayne Turner

DENNY BEAM

Jack & Judy Bingham
Juanita Gunnell

VERA EAKER

Linda Alexander
Ben & Libby Ballard
Linda Barger
Linda Barger (Chancel Choir fund)
Bruce & Chris Barrett
Joyce Baxter
Jack & Judy Bingham
Ben & Robin Blackburn
Steve & Lynn Bowen
Mac & Jewel Brawley
Johnny, Kelly & Nickolas Brown (Backpack Ministry)
Ed & Beverly Campbell
Brenda Carpenter
Erin & Quentin Cash
Jeff & Cynthia Cash
Nancy Catena
Chancel Choir (Chancel Choir fund)
Cherryville Chapter 156 OES
Jack & Carolyn Cooke
Richard & Martha Cornwell
Cotton & Pam Crowder
Deanna Daggerhart
Barry & Wanda Dellinger
Chuck & Julie Dellinger & family
Mike Dellinger
Joe & Sandy Dismukes
The Cohn Eaker Family
Debbie Gantt (Backpack Ministry)
Ruth Gaston
Shirley Gunn
Juanita Gunnell
Clarice Harrelson
Curtis Harrelson
Frank & Danna Henley
Jo Ann Hicks
Teresa Hopper
Janice Hovis
Tad Huffstetler
Palmer & Mary Ann Huffstetler (Endowment Fund)
Reid & Doris Huss
Deana Jones
David & Louanna Kiser
KTC Broadcasting, Inc.
Nan Martin
Eloise Mauney
Harold & Kim Mauney
Linda Mauney

VERA EAKER
-- Continued --

Pat McGinnis
Ray McSwain
June Medlin Sunday School Class
Bill & Quita Moss
Hazeline Moss
Nicholas & Caroline Orlandi
Kathy Pilkington, Ann Davis, Dianne Dellinger
Harry & Goldie Queen (Local Missions)
Betty Jane Robinson
T. L. & Miney Saine
Judy Sellers & Family
Vernon & Betty Smith
Bill Sneed
Mary Etta Stephenson
Jerry Thornburg (Backpack Ministry)
Phyllis Thornburg
Wayne & Belinda Watts
Danny & Teci Webb
Dennis & Judy Willis
Becky Wood

TRENT GARDO

Janice Metcalf

DR. HENRY C. HARRELSON

Anne Harrelson

MAE & CRAIG HARRELSON

Anne Harrelson

RON HOVIS

Bill Sneed

HAROLD & MARGARET LONG

Barry & Wanda Dellinger

JIM MAXEY

Jack & Judy Bingham

JIM MCQUAIGE

John & Linda McQuaige Dellinger

MONTY NEAL

John & Linda McQuaige Dellinger

O.C. PARKER

Bruce & Chris Barrett

CINDY PRUETT

Jack & Judy Bingham

JACK STEPHENSON

Janice Metcalf

C.V. THORNBURG

Linda Barger

GARY THORNBURG

Morris & Jacque McGinnis

+++++

IN HONOR

We gratefully acknowledge gifts presented to the church in honor of:

LINDA ALEXANDER

Janice Metcalf

JACK & JUDY BINGHAM

(58th Wedding Anniversary on 1/3/23)

Chad & Michelle Bingham

SANDRA CARPENTER

Gail Beam

JANET CARTER

Dennis & Sadie Broome

REV. ZACK CHRISTY

Sandra Carpenter (Backpack Ministry)
Vernon & Betty Smith (Pastor's Fund)

CHURCH STAFF

Vernon & Betty Smith (Pastor's Fund)

VAN & ILENE DELLINGER

Tom & Diana White (Backpack Ministry)

TERESA GARDO

Gail B. Beam & Ephriam, Jr.
Harold & Kim Mauney (Playground Fund)
Janice Metcalf

SCOTT KALE

Linda Barger

ELOISE MAUNEY

Janice Metcalf

SYLVIA NORTON

Gail Beam

January Birthdays

- 4 Haley Alexander
- 4 Pat Yount
- 5 Anna Burlison
- 5 Bess Thornburg
- 6 Jalie Creech
- 6 Steven Spangler
- 7 Kristen Husen
- 8 Shafer Rupard
- 8 Clay Thornburg
- 11 Jack Bingham
- 12 Robin Norwood
- 13 Ilene Dellinger
- 14 Tad Huffstetler
- 15 Kenan Fowler
- 16 Bob Elmore
- 17 Bill Sneed
- 17 Melanie Thornburg
- 22 Lindsey Cartee Hetrick
- 22 Frankie Dellinger
- 22 Keith Gardo
- 23 Annie Norwood Downer
- 23 Gunnar Shedd
- 23 Vivian Wallace
- 24 Roy Pursley
- 25 Jim Beam
- 25 Eric King
- 25 Margaret Starling
- 26 Charlie Smith
- 27 Tabor Elmore
- 28 Julie Wallace
- 29 Megan Emerson
- 29 David Huss
- 30 Blaze Dedmon
- 30 Barbara Lamanna
- 31 Cameryn Bell
- 31 Michael Catena
- 31 Ed Pierce



If your birthday is in January and not listed, please contact the church office.



Mr. Larry McGinnis
907 Vista Drive
Cherryville, NC 28021

STEWARDSHIP REPORT, DECEMBER 25

Total Giving To Date \$387,286.13
Needs to Date \$414,462.00

Sunday, January 1

9:30am - Sunday School
10:30am - Worship

Monday, January 2

Church Office closed

Wednesday, January 4

11:00am - Acolyte/Crucifer training

Sunday, January 8

9:30am - Sunday School
10:30am - Worship
6:00pm - Youth

Wednesday, January 11

6:00pm - UMK's

Thursday, January 12

7:00am - Prayer Breakfast at Homefolk's Café

Saturday, January 14

2:00pm - Youth depart for retreat and return on
Monday, January 16, around 1:30pm

Sunday, January 15

9:30am - Sunday School
10:30am - Worship
Youth away at retreat

Wednesday, January 18

6:00pm - UMK's

Thursday, January 19

7:00am - Prayer Breakfast at Homefolk's Café

Sunday, January 22

9:30am - Sunday School
10:30am - Worship
6:00pm - Youth

Wednesday, January 25

6:00pm - UMK's

Thursday, January 26

7:00am - Prayer Breakfast at Homefolk's Café

Saturday, January 28

7:30am - 10:30am - Community wide breakfast buffet

Sunday, January 29

9:30am - Sunday School
10:30am - Worship
6:00pm - Youth

Stewardship update: Our 2023 pledge campaign is underway and a special thank you to everyone who has turned in their pledge card. We have received 45 cards totaling \$200,296.00. The finance committee invites all church members to turn in a pledge card. You may bring it by the church office or you may place it in the offering plate on Sunday morning.

JANUARY USHERS:

Dick Ledford, Darin Webb, Ethan Beck, Chuck Dellinger, Ben Blackburn

PRAYER LIST (Members)

Bob Austell, Betsy Baity, Libby Ballard & family, Dennis Bradley, Mike Burgess, Janet Carter, Deanna Daggerhart, Sandy Dismukes, Jim Eaton, Ruth Gaston, Ken Mayhew, Larry McGinnis, Ray McSwain, Rev. Harry Queen, Earlene Williams, and all our homebound and nursing home members.

PRAYER LIST (Family & Friends)

Courtney Bradley, Don Childers, Shirley Fisher, Windy Kirby Gibson, Whitney Ledford, Vicky Clawson Porter, Carolyn Summer, Shayne Turner, Rick Walker, Rick Webb, Greg Yount and our loved ones in the military.

LOVED ONES IN THE MILITARY:

#Ethan Beck, Edward Blackburn, Aron Dickerson, Caleb Dickerson, Jessica Lovell, Cody Spiker.
Church Member