

Winstead Connection



Pastor Rachel Kwashe
(phone) (252) 408-3894

It is officially the holiday season, and this season is special for our church in a couple ways. The first is that the Church across nations, denominations, and time, has set apart the four weeks before Christmas to remember Christ's birth and prepare for the Second Coming. We call this Advent. The word "Advent" is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, which means 'coming.' Other words that you might associate with Advent include preparation and waiting. Every week of Advent, we light a candle with the final Christ candle being lit on Christmas Eve evening.

The other reason that this Advent is special for us is because the first Sunday of Advent is our Consecration Sunday. You all have done New Consecration Sunday in the past which pertained to stewardship and giving. The Consecration Sunday on December 3 is different because in it, we are consecrating the entire church building and the different things we use for worship like the pulpit, altar, and baptismal font. We know that God's blessing can be upon us anywhere and is not contingent on a special service. But, through the example of Scripture we see this practice of consecration of a holy place or holy things as a way to glorify God and to remind ourselves of who and why we worship. We will have prayers of consecration shared by the bishop throughout the



service. After each one, we will have a time to respond or reflect on what has been said through listening or joining in song. We will also share in the sacrament of communion. It will be a wonderful time to celebrate what God has done in getting us into our new building and to dedicate it to the Lord.

Throughout December, we will have several special Sundays and events that will be a great opportunity to invite friends, family, neighbors, and acquaintances. We will also be adding the passing of the peace into every worship service so that we can offer signs of Christ's peace and welcome to one another and to our visitors. If you are interested in being a greeter and/or staying after worship to follow-up with visitors, let me know. I would love for us to have a team to welcome anyone who visits as soon as they get to the door. We do this because God has invited us into relationship with Him and our welcome is how we extend God's invitation.

"Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever."

Ephesians 3:20-21

CHILDREN & YOUTH



Marty Johnson, Youth Director
336-402-5000

Echo Youth

Pilgrimage 2023

A big thank you to West Nash United Methodist youth group and church for letting us ride with them in their church bus to pilgrimage and being a part of our pilgrimage experience.

A very special thank you to Lori Snyder and Miss Teresa! The music was great as usual and our kids had a great time.

See pictures from Pilgrimage 2023 on page 3.

Christmas Cookie Walk

In December our youth will be doing a Christmas cookie walk as we have done for many years (even before I was here). The date is Sunday, December 10 after our 10:30 morning service.

So make sure that you have found all your special and secret recipes for Christmas cookies and plan on bringing your cookies for our youth fundraiser.

Marty Johnson, Director of Youth Ministries
Office hours
Tuesdays, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Thursdays, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Email: MartyKeithJohnson@gmail.com
Cell phone: 336-402-5000

Christmas Basket Fundraiser

The Christmas Basket winners will be announced on Sunday, December 17 after the Christmas cantata. We want to encourage every group in the church to plan on creating a Christmas basket that we can auction off. Hopefully you have already turned in your Christmas basket, but if not, we will accept them through December 10!

Let me say ahead of time thank you so very, very much for your support of these fundraisers. It is such a blessing that we can have fun, create excitement, and share with one another even in the midst of a fundraiser. Let it be said of Winstead UMC - Romans 12:10 EVC: Love one another with brotherly and sisterly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor!

Youth and Children's Sunday School

There will be no Sunday school on Sunday, December 3, our consecration Sunday. Hope to see everyone at the consecration.

We have already started our Christmas unit for Sunday School and the last Sunday for that unit will be December 10. We will resume Sunday School on Sunday, January 7 with a new curriculum - "Discipleship Journey for KIDS"

We are excited about this new curriculum and want to encourage all children and parents of children to make a special effort for your child to be a part of growing as a disciple of Christ.

If you have any questions or want more information, please just get in touch with Mr. Marty.

(Continued on page 3)

CHILDREN & YOUTH (CONT'D)

Youth

(Continued from page 2)

I want to close by saying thank you so much to our Sunday School teachers and to Ryan Kirby, our Sunday school superintendent. Without you none of this would be possible!

Lighthouse Friends

On Sunday, December 17 we have a preview of Lighthouse Friends during Sunday School. We are encouraging all children, youth, and adults to come and check it out.

This is a ministry we will launch in January and have four times in 2024 on the 4th Thursday evening in January, March, September, and November.

More information about time and place will be coming in our January newsletter. Make sure you come and check us out December 17 at 9:30 a.m. in the new church sanctuary.

ECHO YOUTH SCHEDULE

December 3	
6:00–7:30 pm	TBD
December 10	
11:30 am	Cookie Walk
6:00–7:30 pm	ECHO Youth
December 17	
4:30 pm	Hot chocolate and finger food. Last time for Christmas Basket silent auction
5:00 pm	Cantata
After Cantata	Christmas Basket winners announced
December 24	No ECHO Youth
December 31	No ECHO Youth

/// Pilgrimage 2023



REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE



by **Peggie Shultz**

Years ago I watched a show of PBS called *Simple Living with Wanda Urbanska*. She talked about ways to live a more simple life and emphasized how recycling improves our lives and the world. She had one line at the end of each show that I have always felt to be true: *Nothing's too small to make a difference.*

As we move into our new facility, there will be a focus on recycling. Many events held at church see us consuming drinks from aluminum cans or plastic bottles, or food from plastic containers. All of these can and should be recycled.

Blue recycle bins will be placed in the kitchen and peanut building. As you clean up from your event or if you brought a soda can in with you, please put rinsed recyclable items in the bin. I will sort for recycling.

The office also has a container to collect paper for recycling. But if the office is not open, place your items in the kitchen container.

Winstead has contracted with GFL Environmental Inc. to collect our trash and recycling. They accept the same items as your home recycling. All items need to be clean and dry.

- Steel and aluminum cans
- Glass bottles and jars



- #1-#7 plastics (milk, soft drink, detergent bottles, etc.), just look for the recycle emblem on the container
- Newspapers and inserts, magazines, white paper, phone books, junk mail (but not thermal printed receipts)
- Cardboard and paperboard (cereal, moving boxes, shipping boxes, etc.)
- **No pizza boxes** - and why no pizza boxes? They tend to be contaminated with grease and

grease is the worst thing to find in recycled cardboard. Recyclers don't have time to check every box to see if it has grease.

Plastic bags are in a different category. Plastic will go to grocery store bins. They are for recycling grocery bags, but that's not all that can go in those bins. Other plastics include zipper bags, bread wrappers, bubble wrap, case wrap, cereal liners, dry cleaning bags, newspaper bags, stretch wrap, produce bags, Tyvek envelopes, or any bag marked #2 or #4. All items need to be clean and dry.

If you have any questions, please ask me. Recycling reduces the waste that we pay to have hauled away and is good for the planet.

Nothing's too small to make a difference.

NOVEMBER IN PICTURES



The Wilson Times did a great story on our new building.



West Nash gave us these flowers for our first Sunday on Airport Blvd.



The "Office" sign was moved from TBOB to beside the kitchen door, our weekday entrance.



Books for Vick were ordered and arrived! Now on to wrapping!



Another successful weekend at the Whirligig Festival. Even though we sold peanuts, BBQ sauce and Randy's pottery, it's not about the money - but meeting people from the community.



Harvest decor greeted worshippers.



Our peanuts are in the current issue of Our State magazine, pg. 158.

Women of Winstead

by **Sanda Hight**

WOW (Women of Winstead) met on Saturday, November 18 at 10:00 at the home of Sanda Hight with six members present. A program and discussion on our church's mission statement and how we work to fulfill our mission opened the meeting.

On Saturday, December 2, WOW and other members of the congregation will help with cleaning the church and preparing for the Consecration Service, which will be held on Sunday, December 3. WOW has also been asked to call on members of the congregation to provide desserts for the catered meal, which will follow the service.

During the meeting, we talked about this year's "Books for Vick" project and showed the six books that have been selected for each grade level at Vick Elementary School. We also decided on a theme for our gift basket for the silent auction to raise funds for youth activities. Our theme will be "Christmas Shopping Spree." The gift basket will be filled with a variety of gift cards that will be appropriate for Christmas shopping or other needs.

We remind our congregation that copies of "The Upper Room" are provided by WOW and are available in large and regular print. The daily devotional books are located in the Narthex for all who want them.

There will be no WOW meeting in December, due to a number of services and other activities. WOW will plan for a special celebration to start the new year. After a prayer, the meeting was closed with a time of refreshments and fellowship. We invite all women of the church to join WOW and enjoy the study, fellowship, and service to our church and community.



Winstead History Corner

By **Sanda Hight**

During the children's time at the worship service recently, Marty invited the children to sit on throws that were prepared and distributed to our congregation in commemoration of our church's 50th anniversary, which occurred in 1999.

As we approach our church's 75th anniversary in November 2024, we will be thinking of ways to recall, celebrate, and teach about the history of Winstead United Methodist Church. We will be recalling and giving thanks for the founders of the church, its first congregation, and those who prayed and planned for a new church to meet spiritual needs in Wilson.

As we see the last few weeks of 2023 and the first eleven months of 2024, let us pray for our church and how it will continue to meet spiritual needs in our new setting and our new neighborhood. Let us continue to make a good history that will leave its mark on the lives of our congregation and our community. We will surely have another celebration to commemorate 75 years of worshiping, teaching, reaching out to the community, and growing closer to God with each day of our lives. Be thinking of ways that we can make our next big anniversary a meaningful event, one that will surely be recalled in 2049 at our church's centennial celebration.

Hand in Hand Ministry

By Sanda Hight

Thanks to all who signed the Prayer Partner cards for the Vick staff for November. Prayer Partner cards and birthday cards were delivered on Nov. 15. We will have December Prayer Partner cards in the Narthex on Dec. 10. We decided not to sign cards on the first Sunday this time, since we will be observing Consecration Sunday, followed by a meal.



The Hand in Hand Committee provided apples and trail mix for the Vick staff on November 15 to commemorate American Education Week. We are continually finding ways to recognize the dedicated work of the staff at our partner school.

All the books for this year's "Books for Vick" have arrived. We ordered 328 books that will be distributed to the students and staff before the Christmas break. The price for the books is \$3,543.67. We received a \$1,500 grant from the Wilson Community Foundation, a great help in funding this year's project. Several groups within the church have said they will donate, and we are waiting for others to commit to a donation.

This year we ordered the following books: Kindergarten: "The Cat in the Hat"; First Grade: "Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus"; Second Grade: "Lobstah Gahden"; Third Grade: "Testing the Ice"; Fourth Grade: "Trombone Shorty"; Fifth Grade: "The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind."

Our congregation will be invited to a book-wrapping party on Tuesday, December 12 at 10:00 am and 7:00 pm, so that all may have a chance to help. Those who wish to participate in this fun event should bring their own scissors and tape. Wrapping paper will be provided. This will be a good time to pray for each child who will receive a book this year.

Please continue to keep the students, staff, and families at Vick in your prayers.



Stewardship

by Priscilla Morello, Chair

First of all, thanks goes out to all who made a pledge to support the annual budget for 2024. If you have not yet turned in a pledge card, we encourage you to do so before the end of the year. This helps us to see the commitment on the part of our congregation for the work and ministry we will embark upon in 2024.

Secondly, you did it!!! You donated to **RAISE THE ROOF** a total of \$198,748.37! I fully expect that amount to reach the \$200,000 mark by the end of December! You all are awesome, and you have proved that with God's leading, we can accomplish amazing things. You have made it possible to underwrite a good part of what was needed to enable us to be in our new building! I know it was a sacrifice for many and I also know that God blesses those who give sacrificially.

And lastly, although we will retire the **RAISE THE ROOF** campaign at the end of December, we are introducing a second mile giving program (meaning beyond your regular church donations). Our 75th Anniversary will be celebrated in 2024. As part of that celebration, we are asking individuals and families to pledge and donate to the **2024 Mortgage Retirement Campaign** with a goal of **\$75,000** in honor of our 75th year in ministry. Be on the lookout for a letter coming your way with more information.

Thank you for your faithfulness.



Lighthouse Friends

by Priscilla Morello

This program will be taking the place of the Messy Church program since we opted to offer Lighthouse Friends four times during 2024 (The Messy Church requires a program each month)

Lighthouse Friends is for busy households of all shapes and sizes to come together to experience fun, faith, and food. This intergenerational program will be held on a weeknight evening. The first one will be Thursday, January 18th at 5:30 pm



To get a taste of this program (without the meal) come Sunday morning, December 17th during the Sunday School hour. This will be for children, youth, and adults. It is entitled *Lighthouse Friends Christmas*.

WE NEED SOME SUPPLIES FOR DECEMBER 17TH: If you have old/used Christmas cards that have nativity pictures (the Holy Family, shepherds, wise men, angels, Bethlehem, etc.), please bring them to church by December 10th.

Also, we need items that will go to the Choices Women's Center for mothers and their babies—*Items such as* diapers, onesies, bibs, bottles, baby wipes, etc.

Please bring items to church by December 10th.



Outreach News

By Mary Ellen Bass

We want to thank everyone who helped in any way with our booth at the Whirligig Festival. The weather was perfect and we had a successful and fun weekend of fellowship and sharing with each other and the many folks who visited our booth. We handed out information cards about Winstead UMC and invited folks to our church. Winstead made a profit of \$936.06 selling our peanuts, BBQ sauce and pottery. Many thanks to the peanut gang for making peanuts, Joyce and Jake Wolfe for making the BBQ sauce, Randy Marshburn for the pottery, Linda Lane for the peanut and pecan brittle, Sandy Lamm, Fred Hight, and Barry Shultz for setting up and taking down the tent and tables and bringing supplies, and to all of you who worked the booth. Thanks to Linda Lane’s daughter and grandchildren who helped set up and work the booth for us on Sunday morning during our first Worship Service in our new building.

The December Food Drive will be held on December 10 following Worship Service. Thanks to everyone for the wonderful response in donating food and money to help feed the hungry in our community through our partnership with Barnes Chapel Missionary Baptist Church.

The Outreach Team met by a Zoom meeting on November 28 for our final meeting this year. We made plans to donate funds received from the Food Drives to Barnes Chapel, Hope Station, Mount Zion Hope Pantry, and to Seeds of Hope Neighborly Food Closet. We plan to donate funds to help purchase the books to give to the students at Vick Elementary School at Christmas.

I want to thank everyone who served on the Outreach Team this year for your service and dedication to the important work we do at Winstead to help change the lives of those in need in our community and beyond.

Sunday, December 10
11:30 pm
Peanut Building

DRIVE IN

FOOD DRIVE

December Birthdays

Chad Ferrell	11
Mary Walston.....	17
Marty Johnson.....	19
Griffin Parker.....	19
Mary Smith	19
Diane Watts-Barker.....	20
Beatrice Boykin.....	21

December Anniversaries

Ryan & Helen Kirby	8
Sandy & Denise Lamm.....	30

DECEMBER AT WINSTEAD

See the online calendar for the most current information - winsteadumc.org/calendar



Friday, December 1

3:00 pm Funeral for Carolyn Nagle (Joyner's Funeral Home)

Sunday, December 3

10:15 am Fellowship
10:30 am Worship - Consecration Service
11:30 am Luncheon
4:00 pm Handbell rehearsal
6:00 pm ECHO Youth

Monday, December 4

6:30 pm Men's Small Group

Tuesday, December 5

2:00 pm Bible Study (Williams home)
2:00 pm Hand in Hand (pg. 8)

Wednesday, December 6

12:00 pm Grace Notes & Friends at Advent Series, First Christian Church
7:00 pm Choir Practice

Thursday, December 7

9:30 am Bible Study (Wolfe home)

Saturday, December 9

12:00 pm Youth Cooking Cookies

Sunday, December 10

9:30 am Sunday School for All
10:15 am Fellowship
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Cookie Walk
11:30 pm Drive-in Food Drive
6:00 pm ECHO Youth

Monday, December 11

7:30 am Cooking Peanuts

Tuesday, December 12

10:00 am Wrapping Books for Vick (pg. 8)
2:00 pm Bible Study (Williams home)
7:00 pm Wrapping Books for Vick (pg. 8)

Wednesday, December 13

5:30 pm Grace Notes Practice
7:00 pm Choir Practice

Thursday, December 14

9:30 am Bible Study (Wolfe home)

Sunday, December 17

9:30 am Lighthouse Friends Preview for All
10:15 am Fellowship
10:30 am Worship
4:30 pm Finger Food & Basket Bidding
5:00 pm Christmas Cantata, reception to follow. Christmas Basket winners announced.

Monday, December 18

7:30 am Cooking Peanuts

Tuesday, December 19

2:00 pm Bible Study (Williams home)

Wednesday, December 20

5:30 pm Grace Notes Practice
7:00 pm Choir Practice

Sunday, December 24

10:15 am Fellowship
10:30 am Worship
5:30 pm Family Christmas Eve Service
11:00 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

Monday, December 25

Newsletter Deadline - Office Closed

Merry Christmas

Tuesday, Dec. 26 & Wednesday, Dec. 27

Office Closed

Sunday, December 31

10:15 am Fellowship
10:30 am Worship

Monday, January 1

Office Closed

Pastor Rachel's office hours are
Monday - Wednesday,
9:30 am - Noon
Text or call: (252) 408-3894



1851 Airport Blvd. W
Wilson, NC 27893

Pastor Rev. Rachel Kwashe
Director of Youth Ministries
Marty Johnson
Minister of Music
Sandy Pittman
Handbell Choir Director
Joyce Wolfe
Church Musician
Faye Jones
Children's Choir Director
Becky Holland
Office Administrator
Gretchen Hunt
Lay Leader
Sandy Lamm

The Winstead Connection

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1851 Airport Blvd.
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252-237-3709

WinsteadUMC@gmail.com
www.WinsteadUMC.org

Office Hours:
Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Sunday Schedule

9:30 am Sunday School for all
10:30 am Worship
6:00 pm ECHO Youth
Pastor : Rev. Rachel Kwashe
Email: rkwashe@nccumc.org



Come, grow closer to God with us!

Advent at Winstead

Sunday, December 3

10:30 am Sanctuary Consecration
11:30 am Luncheon

Wednesday, December 6

12:00 pm Grace Notes & Friends at Advent Series
First Christian Church

Sunday, December 10

11:30 am Cookie Walk

Sunday, December 17

5:00 pm Choir Cantata - *Shout the Good News*
6:30 pm Reception and Christmas Basket Winners
Announced

Sunday, December 24

10:30 am Worship
5:30 pm Family Christmas Eve Service
11:00 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

Monday, December 25

Merry Christmas

Office Closed