

# Winstead Connection



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

## Merry Christmaside and Happy New Year!

Yes, even though it is January, we are still celebrating Christmas! The 12 days of Christmas come after Christmas and lead us to the celebrating of Epiphany on January 6. During Epiphany, we remember the journey of the magi to meet infant Jesus and the light they followed. We then, are challenged to share the light of Christ in our everyday lives. As we share that light, we are likely to meet people who have questions about faith. If we are being honest, no one has all the answers. Part of faith is continuing to believe in the goodness of God and work of the Holy Spirit despite our questions. But rather than deal with these questions on our own or push them to the side, the community that we find in the Church helps us to navigate our questions and make peace with what is still uncertain. As part of this work of sharing the light of Christ into a world yearning for more, I invite you to think about what questions you have had about church, faith, or Scripture, write your questions down, and give them to me. This can be anonymous, or you can write your name. For the

four weeks leading up to Lent, I will preach on one question or group of questions on a given topic. I would love for you to write your name so that if I am not able to work in a sermon about your question, I can still talk to you about it but that part is completely optional. Please submit your questions no later than **Sunday, January 14**. The first Sunday in this, "Can I Be Honest?" series will be on January 21. You can put your question in the offering plate, bring it to the office, or email me. I'll have slips of paper available and remind you of this starting January 7.

Know that I am continuing to pray for you as we begin another year. I am deeply grateful for the wonderful works we have seen God do through Winstead in this past year. Your continued support through your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness is still needed as we look ahead to the exciting ministry opportunities we have in this year ahead. May God's peace be upon you and fill you as you carry the light of the Christ from Winstead to the world. Christ goes with you as does this community of faith. Let us continue to grow closer to God together.

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

# CHILDREN & YOUTH



*Marty Johnson, Youth Director*  
336-402-5000

## Echo Youth

### Christmas Cookie Walk & Christmas Baskets

Thank You, Thank You!!

In December our youth and church family had the Christmas cookie walk as we have done for many years (even before I was here). The youth and I would like to thank everyone for their awesome support. This money will help to ensure that we have funds for all our special and annual events!

After the Christmas cantata on December 17, we announced the winners of the Christmas Gift Baskets.

The combined money raised for our youth was over \$2,500. God is so good to us through you, Winstead. All I can say is thank you, thank you, thank you!

### Sunday School News

We will begin on Sunday, January 7 at 9:30 am. We will be using a new curriculum - "Discipleship

Journey for KIDS." We are excited about this new curriculum and want to encourage all children and parents 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.

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

Please keep our teachers and their helpers in your prayers. Winstead Church, you are very important to what God wants our church to be and do! So without your PRAYERS, we have no divine power and that makes all the difference!!

### Lighthouse Friends

On December 17 we had a special promotion and preview of "Lighthouse Friends." We had several youth, children and adults participate.

Everyone had a great time and got a taste of what this ministry will be like. Basically each Lighthouse Friends meeting will begin with an ice breaker. The ice breaker will get everyone talking to each other.

After the ice breaker we will have three activities. You can go to and from these three activities

*(Continued on page 3)*

Marty Johnson, Director of Youth Ministries  
Office hours

Tuesdays, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm and Thursdays, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Email: MartyKeithJohnson@gmail.com

Cell phone: 336-402-5000

# CHILDREN & YOUTH (CONT'D)

## Youth

*(Continued from page 2)*

as you choose. These are geared for both young and old because "Lighthouse Friends" is intergenerational. These three activities will be based on the evening's theme.

After the activity time we will gather for a simple meal. Conversation, just getting to know each other, and fellowship through the bond of food will be the main point.

After the meal we will have a time of devotional worship in which we will try to use all the senses to help us experience a time within and through God.

We hope that you will join us and invite a friend, a neighbor, or an acquaintance for our first "Lighthouse Friends" meeting - Thursday, January 18 at 5:30 pm.

We will gather together in the narthex where instructions for the icebreaker will be shared and explained. Don't worry if you're not there right on time. We will give you the information as you come in and you can join in on the fun. The theme for our first "Lighthouse Friends" will be *beginnings*.

There will be four "Lighthouse Friends" meetings on the 4th Thursday of January, March, September and November.

If you have other questions or concerns or would like to be a part of our new ministry, please contact either Marty Johnson or Priscilla Morello. You can contact either one of us by calling the church office at 252-237-3709.

## ECHO YOUTH SCHEDULE

January 7	6:00–7:30 pm	Planning for Jan., Feb., March
January 14	6:00–7:30 pm	Art works for others
January 21	6:00–7:30 pm	Valentine Dance planning
January 28		Valentine Dance planning



*Children's Choir sings on Dec. 10.*



*Who Am I? Can only ask yes or no questions to figure out which nativity character you are.*



*Pastor Rachel works with Don Taylor as they wrap baby gifts to help others.*



# IN MEMORIAM

## Carolyn Hughes Nagle

Carolyn Nagle, 89, went home to be with her Lord and Savior on Sunday, November 26. Funeral services were held Friday, December 1 at Joyner's Funeral Home. Rev. Dr. Benjamin Williams officiated.



Carolyn was born in Elizabethton, TN on November 24, 1934 to Samuel Eugene and Ida Pearl Hughes. From an early age, it was clear that God blessed Carolyn with a special musical gift - one which she used to share God's love with others. She taught piano and played for worship services, weddings, funerals, and other life celebrations. Music was one of the great loves of her life. And it was through music, that she met the love of her life when she was just 16 years old. Working as a pianist for Brick Christian Church, she was asked to play an accompaniment for a young vocalist and theology student from Milligan College. She would go on to accompany him in life and music ministry for the next 55 years, serving multiple churches and leading music at the Mountain Christian Churches Convention. In retirement Carolyn continued to serve in church administration and music ministry for Winstead United Methodist Church and Forest Hills Presbyterian Church.

Her legacy resides in her family. She loved her children fiercely and she adored her grandchildren; they bore the marks of her love in the lipstick kisses she often left on their cheeks.

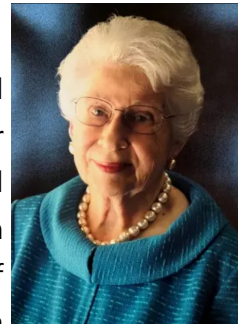
She also enjoyed annual retreats to Emerald Isle, a good paperback, cooking for her family, good movies, a strong cup of coffee and the Green Bay Packers.

Carolyn was preceded in death by her husband, Rollie. She is survived by her children, Nancy Batchelor (Stephen) of Wilson; Roland Eugene "Gene" Nagle (Barbara) of Wilson; Janet Barnes (Brent) of Winston-Salem; and sister-in-law Susie Nagle Nagase (Masaru) of Wilson. She was also blessed with six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Donations in her memory may be made to Forest Hills EPC Church.

## Susie Gray Jones

Susie Gray Jones, a revered businesswoman known for her elegance and tenacity, passed away on December 15, 2023, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, at the age of 101. Born on April 14, 1922, in Wilson County, North Carolina, she was the daughter of George and Susie Boykin.



Susie was a luminary in her own right, dedicating her life to the family business and leaving an indelible mark with her astute business acumen and unwavering dedication. Her grace, combined with a sharp mind and a penchant for success, made her a respected figure in the business community.

Her relentless drive and passion for her work kept her active till the very end, inspiring those around her and leaving a lasting legacy of resilience and commitment.

She is survived by her son, Raymond H. Jones, Jr., and his wife, Jacquelyn S. Mitchell, who she cherished deeply. Her granddaughter, Nicole E.

*(Continued on page 5)*



## Susie Jones

(Continued from page 4)

Duffy, and husband Michael, held a special place in her heart. Susie was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Raymond H. Jones, whom she adored and shared many cherished moments.

Susie Gray Jones will be remembered for her unwavering strength, her unyielding determination, and her unwritten chapters of resilience and success in both her personal and professional life. Her legacy will continue to inspire generations to come.

The family appreciates all the support and condolences during this time of remembrance and reflection.

A graveside service was held December 22 at Evergreen Memorial Park in Wilson.

Arrangements were entrusted to Schaudt's Tulsa Funeral Service, Tulsa, OK. Family and friends are invited to leave kind words of comfort, share special memories, and offer condolences to the family online at [www.schaudtfuneralservice.com](http://www.schaudtfuneralservice.com).

## Edna Branch

Edna Stancil Branch, 90, of Wilson, died on Saturday, December 23, 2023.

Her funeral was at Wilson Memorial Service followed by burial at Maplewood Cemetery, beside her husband, Marvin Eugene Branch, who died in 2004. The family was at the home of Jimmy and Lisa Branch.

Surviving is her daughter, Vicki Long (Mike) of Orlando, FL; sons, Jimmy "Skeeter" Branch (Lisa) of Wilson and Bill Branch (Carolyn) of Crystal Springs, MS; granddaughter, Rachel Konecny (Brandon) of Knightdale; great-granddaughter, Vivienne Konecny; sister, Jane Sunday (W.J.) of Magnolia, TX.



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*Thank You!*

Dear Winstead Family,

Thank you so much for the generous Christmas love offering! I feel especially blessed to have an additional church family here at Winstead! Thank you for making this such a wonderful place to work and serve the Lord.

Much Love, Gretchen

Friends,

What a surprise! Thank you for including me in the love gift for church staff. You are so very thoughtful. It is my pleasure and joy to share music with you at Winstead!

Love always, Joyce

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**Sunday, January 14**

**11:30 pm**

**Parking Lot**

**DRIVE IN**

**FOOD  
DRIVE**



# CONSECRATION SUNDAY



*(L to R) District Superintendent Chris Brady, Sandy Lamm, Bishop Connie Shelton, Fred Hight and Pastor Rachel. Sandy and Fred built the altar and pulpit.*



*Consecrating the pulpit.*



*Lighting the Advent Candle*



*Enjoying the catered lunch*



*Bishop Shelton singing with the choir*



*Waiting to be served lunch.*

## Staff Parish Relations Committee

By Priscilla Morello

*Thank you~Thank you~Thank you*—to our generous congregation for their outpouring of love through their donations to the Staff Love Offering. And *Thank you~Thank you~Thank you* to our Pastor and staff for the inspiring and loving way you have led our congregation through this transitional year. God's hand has been evident through you, and we say God's Blessings be upon you!

### Looking Back over 2022 and 2023 with the SPRC Team

Since Pastor Rachel has come to Winstead the SPRC has worked with her to develop a staff handbook, update the format of staff job descriptions, institute annual staff evaluations, assign SPRC Liaisons for each of the paid staff and sought to be a good and helpful intermediary between the congregation and our staff. It has been my honor to chair this team of dedicated individuals and I look forward to supporting and encouraging Mary Ellen Bass as she takes over as chair for 2024.

In Christ's Love, Priscilla Morello

## Mission Seed Funds Grant Update

We are still waiting to hear about this nearly \$10,000 grant but are very hopeful and, indeed, we are moving ahead with plans for some of the programs outlined in the grant. The Conference Evangelism & Discipleship team has approved \$300 already for the Lighthouse Friends ministry. We soon hope to post that we are a grant recipient!

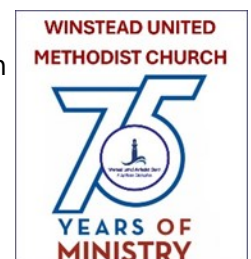


## Lighthouse Friends

We had a preview of **Lighthouse Friends** during Sunday School on December 17. We now move forward with plans for the first official **Lighthouse Friends** event on **Thursday, January 18, 2024**. The Women of Winstead have agreed to host the dinner which is underwritten by donated funds. We have online registration set up. If you are a church member, remember to register so that we will have a participant count for supper as well as for the activities. And pass the word! Share the post on the church's Facebook page and tell your friends and neighbors. We are requesting canned goods to help build a giant *constructed* Lighthouse as we explore the theme: **Jesus, Light of the World**.

## 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

It's finally here! Our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year has arrived. We will have an official celebration in November 2024 but there will be ways during the year that we will explore and celebrate this milestone. Happy 75<sup>th</sup>!





## Women of Winstead

by **Sanda Hight**

WOW (Women of Winstead) coordinated the refreshments following the Choir Cantata and the youth gift basket silent auction on Sunday, Dec. 17. With all the finger foods provided by the congregation and the coffee, cider, and other beverages, the fellowship and sharing were a blessing during Advent.

WOW will meet in January to plan mission projects and activities for 2024. Please contact Karen Rowley, WOW president, if you have ideas for how WOW can reach out to the community with service and love for the year ahead. Time and location for the January meeting will be announced soon.

Now that we are in our new location, we have opportunities to make a difference in the life of the church and our new community. All women of the church are invited to be a part of WOW as we learn, serve, and grow closer to God.



**Don't forget to  
reduce, reuse and recycle.**

## Outreach News

By **Mary Ellen Bass**

In December, we donated \$250 each to the food pantries at Barnes Chapel, Hope Station, Mount Zion UMC, and Seeds of Hope thanks to the generous donations from our church members during our food drives. Through funds received from Living the Word, and profits from the Whirligig and Great Gardens Fall-A-Fair festivals, we donated \$500 to the Seeds of Hope general fund, \$1,020.47 for the books for the students at Vick Elementary at Christmas and \$500 to the Winstead playground fund.

Our January food drive will be on January 14 following Worship Service and will continue on the 2nd Sunday of each month.

I would like to thank you, Winstead Church family, and Outreach Team for your generous support of our monthly food drives and of all our Outreach activities this year. You are a blessing to our church and to our community as we seek to do God's work by doing good things for our neighbors and spreading the love of Christ. Thank you, Priscilla Morello, for stepping into the Chair position for Outreach in 2024. We look forward to exciting new Outreach opportunities we hope to achieve through a Conference grant application.

Let's keep our church in prayer as we move into a new year, in our new place, and with new opportunities as we invite others to come grow closer to God with us.



# HAND IN HAND MINISTRY

**By Sanda Hight**

Our church continues to be blessed with the opportunity to serve and interact with Vick Elementary School in our 22nd year of Hand in Hand partnership. This year has been busy and full of activities, interactions, donations, and prayers for the students and staff at the school.

In December our congregation sent Prayer Partner cards with many signatures, messages, and wishes for a blessed Christmas for the staff. Our most ambitious service for this year has been a continuation of our "Books for Vick" ministry, which is in its fourth year. Before we delivered the books to the school, we had two sessions of book wrapping on Dec. 12, one at 10:00 am and another at 7:00 pm. About twelve church members helped with the wrapping, but before wrapping began, Pastor Rachel offered a prayer for the books and the students who would receive them. This year our congregation was able to provide more than 330 books, one for each student in the school. Representatives from our church family delivered the books on December 19. Principal Annette Fai-

son, Assistant Principal Dr. David Lott, school secretary Lisa Ellis, and the Grinch (school employee Chris Woodard) accepted the books on behalf of the students and teachers, and they all smiled for pictures with members of our church as all held books that would be delivered later. Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, a local grant, funds from the church Outreach Committee, the Peanut ministry, and other sources, the children took their books home to share with their family. Also on Dec. 19, the Hand in Hand Committee provided a table of Christmas treats and beverages for the school staff.

The Hand in Hand Committee will meet on January 2 to plan yet another semester of activities to spread the love of Jesus Christ and our congregation to Vick. The new year shows promise of being filled with blessing for our church as it interacts with Vick Elementary.

Please continue to keep the students and staff in prayer for safety and success during the coming year.



*All 330 books were wrapped before being handed out on Tuesday, December 19. If you could see their faces when they get these books!*

*Vice Principal Lott and Principal Faison (above, center) received the books on behalf of the students.*



*Christmas treats for the staff.*



*Wrapping the Books for Vick.*

# JANUARY AT WINSTEAD

See the online calendar for the most current information - [winsteadumc.org/calendar](http://winsteadumc.org/calendar)

## Monday, January 1 - Office Closed

## Tuesday, January 2

2:00 pm Hand in Hand (pg. 9)

## Sunday, January 7

9:30 am Sunday School for All

10:15 am Fellowship

10:30 am Worship

6:00 pm ECHO Youth

## Tuesday, January 9

2:00 pm Bible Study (Williams home)

## Wednesday, January 10

5:30 pm Grace Notes Rehearsal

7:00 pm Choir Practice

## Thursday, January 11

9:30 am Bible Study (Wolfe home)

## Saturday, January 13

10:00 am Choir Retreat

## Sunday, January 14

9:30 am Sunday School for All

10:15 am Fellowship

10:30 am Worship

11:30 pm Drive-in Food Drive

6:00 pm ECHO Youth

6:00 pm WAM Children's Choir

## Monday, January 15 - Office Closed

## Tuesday, January 16

2:00 pm Bible Study (Williams home)

## Wednesday, January 17

5:30 pm Grace Notes Practice

7:00 pm Choir Practice

## Thursday, January 18

9:30 am Bible Study (Wolfe home)

5:30 pm Lighthouse Friends Event (pg. 7)

## Sunday, January 21

9:30 am Sunday School for All

10:15 am Fellowship

10:30 am Worship

6:00 pm ECHO Youth

6:00 pm WAM Children's Choir

## Tuesday, January 23

2:00 pm Bible Study (Williams home)

## Wednesday, January 24

5:30 pm Grace Notes Practice

7:00 pm Choir Practice

## Thursday, January 25

### Newsletter Deadline

9:30 am Bible Study (Wolfe home)

## Sunday, January 28

9:30 am Sunday School for All

10:15 am Fellowship

10:30 am Worship

6:00 pm ECHO Youth

6:00 pm WAM Children's Choir

## Tuesday, January 30

2:00 pm Bible Study (Williams home)

## Wednesday, January 31

5:30 pm Grace Notes Practice

7:00 pm Choir Practice

## January Birthdays

Bill Rowley .....	1
McKenna Griffin .....	7
Vicky Harper .....	8
Jay Mercer .....	8
Ronald Murray .....	9
Penelope Bass .....	14
B.J. Parker .....	14
Janice Rowe .....	17
Chris Pittman .....	25
Helen Kirby .....	27
Dennis Rutter .....	27
Joyce Wolfe .....	30

## January Anniversaries

Fred & Sanda Hight .....	16
John & Claudine Perkins .....	26
Ronald & Patricia Murray .....	27



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.  
Wilson, NC 27893  
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!*

**Thursday, January 18, 2024**  
5:30-7:00 pm  
**Winstead United Methodist Church**  
1851 Airport Blvd.

Join us for this week night program featuring supper, crafts, activities & an informal worship time ~~  
January theme:  
Jesus, Light of the World

**Lighthouse Friends**  
Enjoying  
Fun, Faith, Food

