

Winstead Connection



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

Lent is underway and by the end of this month we will be celebrating Easter. This is another exciting milestone that we will experience in our new church building. I remember the feeling of last year's Sunrise Service held at the property as it had been done for several years before. It was cold, windy, and rainy but it was also hopeful and inspiring because right where so many had gathered to worship over the years was this sign of new life. It was not complete or habitable, but it was there. Our church building was a sign of the new thing that God was and is doing as we testified to the power of resurrection in our worship. The seasons of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter are a good reminder that though the building is completed, there is still work to do. God has made it possible for us to take a step of faith and many more in bringing the vision of Winstead UMC to Airport Blvd. We are here, firmly planted, and ready to grow. You may remember hearing the words of 1 Corinthians 3:6-7 while the building was under construction. 1 Corinthians is a letter from Paul to the church of Corinth in which Paul says,

"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth."

We want to see growth. We have waited for it. We have prayed for it. And still the Church Year brings us back to a season of waiting, yearning, and hoping. This 40-day season of Lent is not one that we can fast forward through or choose to skip. These 40 days are a pruning. When you prune a rose bush, your neighbors are not going to say, "Oh, how beautifully your rose bush has grown!" If anything, the bush probably looks smaller. But without the pruning, the roses will fail to bloom and may even wither away. Pruning enables the rose to continue to grow and bloom through the seasons. In John 15, Jesus tells us that He is the vine, and we are the branches. Every branch that bears fruit is pruned by God. How are you being pruned by God? In what ways is God preparing you to grow and preparing our church to grow? The best way for us to answer those questions is to continue to abide in the love of God and trusting that through the pruning, God is preparing us in ways we may not yet know.

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

Sunday School News

We are grateful for our new curriculum "Discipleship Journey for Kids" and our teachers are doing a great job. Each week we send out a parent prompt - a one and a half minute video telling our parents what the kids studied in Sunday School. This video helps parents talk with their children about their discipleship Journey. We at Winstead UMC believe that we are in partnership with our children's parents and grandparents in being a part of a team that shares our experience with Christ so that we might help our children to grow to be disciples that make disciples.

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!!

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

Parents Night Out

We had our first Parents Night Out on Friday, February 9. Five children and youth had a great time playing games, watching Veggie Tales, eating snacks and creating crafts.

Thanks so very much to Priscilla Morello and Linda Lane. The next one will be Friday, April 12 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Souper Bowl of Caring

On Super Bowl Sunday, February 11, right after the morning worship service, Winstead's Youth had their first Souper Bowl Chili COOK-OFF.

Everyone was invited to make their favorite chili to bring to church. After the service everyone moved into the narthex to pick up a bowl and three stones to use to vote - one white for People's Choice, one red for Hot and Spicy, and one dark blue for Most Unusual.

Donations given will be split between Winstead Youth and Wilson Community Soup Kitchen.

The winner for People's Choice "best all around taste" - Sanda Hight

The winner for Hot and Spicy - Sanda Hight

And winner of Most Unusual - Sandy Pittman

Youth Lock In

On Friday, March 1, the youth of Winstead UMC and West Nash UMC will hold a lock-in at Winstead. The lock-in will start at 8:00 p.m. on Friday

(Continued on page 3)

CHILDREN & YOUTH (CONT'D)

(Continued from page 2)

night and end at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday morning. All youth are encouraged to invite a friend. We'll be playing games, having contests, eating, and having a good time in fellowship.

Any questions or concerns please contact Marty Johnson.



Practicing games for the lock-in.

Community Easter Eggstravaganza

On Saturday, March 23 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Winstead will host a Community Easter Eggstravaganza. Activities will include games & prizes, food and drink, an Easter egg hunt, Wilson Police K-9 unit, inflatables, Easter Bunny photos, and Best Easter Dressed Dog.

Go to our website (winsteadumc.org) to sign up. Please share on your Facebook page as well and remind your friends to sign up so we will have an idea of the number of participants.

Remember: registration is not required, but it will be very helpful for us in preparing!

ECHO YOUTH SCHEDULE

March 3	6:00–7:30 pm	Prayer and Meditation
March 10	6:00–7:30 pm	Suffering and Commandments
March 17	6:00–7:30 pm	Suffering and Obedience
March 24	6:00–7:30 pm	Taking up your Cross
March 31		Easter: He Has Risen! No Youth Meeting



The office is low on postage stamps. Any donations would be appreciated.

REDUCE

by **Peggie Shultz**

Often when you see a recycle symbol, it also contains the words "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle." It is no accident that "reduce" is listed first. There are less things to recycle if we don't use them in the first place.

Over time you will remember to take your reusable bags into the grocery store (without having to go back and get them). But what about other shopping? Ladies, you need several folding nylon bags in your purse – I use Envbags reusable totes (envbags.com). Then no matter where you are, if that item you didn't know you needed jumps out at you, you have a bag to take it home.

[True story: The grocery clerk fills my reusable bags, but has items left over. She asks me if I want a plastic bag, and I say, "Oh, no, I have another bag." As I am reaching into my purse to get it she says, "Oh, you're the lady with the bags in her purse." Yes, yes I am!]

Now that you are using your reusable grocery bags, how do you get around the plastic produce bags? Use mesh bags. There are a host of mesh bags - search for "reusable produce bag." Throw the bags in the wash when they get dirty. And store them in your reusable shopping bags. I have mesh produce bags that I bought 10 years ago and they are still fine.

Do you take your lunch to work? Use a sandwich bag for parts of it? You can reuse a sandwich bag for at least a week as long as it just has crumbs in it. Now you're using one sandwich bag a week instead of five.

Along with recycling your junk mail, try to decrease it. If the solicitation comes with a prepaid return envelope, on the return portion draw a line through the offer, write "NO," and then "Remove me from your mailing list" next to your preprinted name and address. Mail this back in their envelope. This won't stop the junk tomorrow, but over time you will see a difference. For unwanted catalogues, go to the company's website. You might have to hunt for it, but there is usually a spot to cancel your catalogue. And sometimes it's under the "Send me a catalog" tab.

Tell your wait person you don't need that straw. Or bring your own metal/plastic one. Lots of places, including Pampered Chef (see Sandy Pittman), sell metal ones with a carrying case and a cleaning tool.

Bring your own water in a reusable glass or bottle. Restaurants that let you get your drink will often let you use your glass instead of their plastic one. Just ask.

An easy and free way to cut down on Styrofoam - when you go out to eat and know you will bring leftovers home, take your own food container. Use whatever you have in your kitchen. You just need to remember to take it with you.

Many companies that you do business with (insurance, health care, utilities, banking) will let you get your statements and bills electronically. And they want you to do that - saves them tons of postage and pager. Sign up for paperless delivery!

And don't forget direct deposit and bill pay at your bank. Many bill pay requests are sent electronically by your bank to the business.



HAND IN HAND MINISTRY

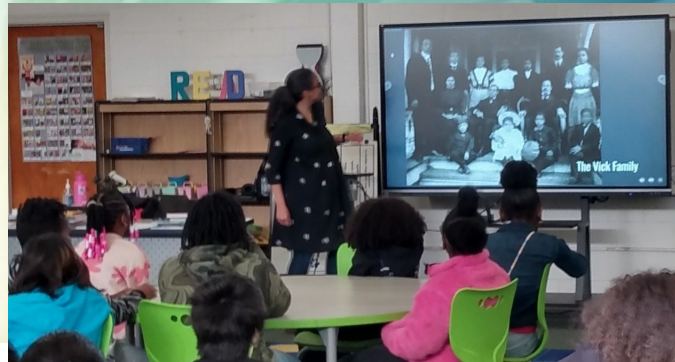
By Sanda Hight

The spring semester has already been busy with activities and support for Vick Elementary School. Thanks to all who signed Prayer Partner Cards for February. Cards for March will on display and available for signing on Sunday March 10 through Sunday, March 17. Please feel free to write a message and sign your name to support the Prayer Partners at Vick.

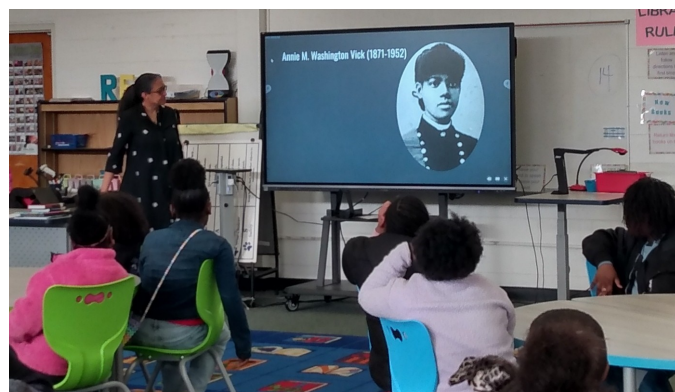
The Hand in Hand Outreach coordinated a program for grades 3-5 at Vick to observe Black History Month on February 8. The speaker for the program was Lisa Henderson, an attorney and local historian, who spoke to the students on the life of Samuel H. Vick and his contribution to education and business in Wilson. Lisa sent the following note to the Hand in Hand Committee: "Dear Ms. Morello, Please extend my heartfelt thanks to the Hand in Hand Ministry for sponsoring my visit to Vick Elementary School last week. The students were so attentive and curious; the staff so warm and welcoming. I'm grateful for the opportunity to help ensure Samuel H. Vick's life and work are remembered. Best regards, Lisa Y. Henderson."

In addition to providing Prayer Partner cards in March, the Hand in Hand Committee plans to provide our traditional potato bar lunch to the Vick staff in mid-March. Also, we are hoping to participate in "Read Across America" in March. Look for announcements soon about opportunities to read to classes again this year.

As always, keep the students and staff in prayer for safety and academic success.



Wilson native, Lisa Henderson, talks to the students at Vick about their school's namesake.



Samuel Vick and his wife, Annie, had nine children. Some of their grandchildren still live in the Wilson area.



Vick principal, Mrs. Faison, with Rev. Maurice Barnes. Rev. Barnes helped coordinate Ms. Henderson's visit.

Women of Winstead

by Sanda Hight

All women of our church are invited to join WOW (Women of Winstead), which meets on the third Saturday of each month for study, service for the church and community, and fellowship. We have a good time as we plan and share with each other. Welcome!

WOW sent Valentine cards for homebound members the week before Valentine's Day to extend love to those who cannot get out often. Also, WOW coordinated a light meal that followed the Community Lenten Service held at our church on Wednesday, February 21.

The WOW chicken salad sale is planned for Thursday, April 25, with pick-up that afternoon and through the weekend. The price of one pound of chicken salad will be \$8.00 again this year. More announcements about order forms and other information will begin in March and continue until the day of the sale. Families of the church will be invited to pick up order forms once they are available and help with orders from family members, friends, and co-workers. Information about donating chicken will also be made soon. Please look for information on the screen prior to Sunday worship, in the worship bulletins, and from WOW members. WOW will decide at the March meeting where profits will be donated.

Jean Griffin, Bereavement Chair, is re-organizing the care groups that provide meals for

families during times of bereavement or other need. Those lists will be available soon.

The next WOW meeting will be held at the church on Saturday, March 16 at 10:00. Again, welcome!

Trustee News

by Fred Hight

The Trustees have been busy. We have agreed for Tabernacle to use our front grass area to park cars for an event to be held on Saturday, March 30. We are trying to decide where to bury the time capsule, which will be buried soon. Barry Shultz and Fred Hight hung the pictures of the former pastors in the Narthex on Saturday, February 17. Other pictures and the large quilt will be hung soon.

We still have to make some decisions about a permanent sign to be located in the front of the property. Other concerns that were brought up at the Church Council meeting on February 20 will be addressed soon.

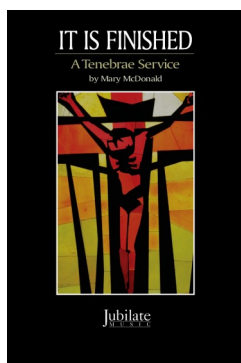




Sandy Pittman, Minister of Music
music@winsteadumc.org

Musical Interlude by Sandy Pittman

The Chancel Choir will be presenting "It is Finished" by Mary McDonald on Thursday, March 28 at 6:30 pm. This work is a stirring Tenebrae Service guiding the worshiper through the events of Holy Week. The addition of a small orchestra will assist in the majestic re-telling of the last week of the life of Jesus.



We are thrilled to unveil a delightful addition to our Chancel Choir – brand new choir robes! After careful consideration and with your sup-

port, we have selected these robes to enhance both the visual presentation and comfort for the Chancel Choir during worship.

We extend our deepest gratitude to those who contributed to the fund to make this possible. We also would like to thank Becky Holland and Dwayne Jones for their leadership in selecting these beautiful new choir robes.



The Chancel Choir will be unveiling their new choir robes on Easter Sunday!!!

Worship and Music



For Kids

Our very own Children's Choir, WAM, will be presenting music as a part of our morning worship services on Sunday, March 10 and Palm Sunday, March 24.

Outreach Committee

By Priscilla Morello

Our next Drive-in Food Drive will be on Sunday, March 10th after worship. Please bring your items that Sunday to be picked up by volunteers from Barnes Chapel.

We are so thankful for the generous expression of support from our congregation for this food ministry. You are generous with both monetary support and food items and the Outreach Committee seeks to be good stewards of your generosity.

Sunday, March 10
11:30 am
Under the portico

DRIVE IN

FOOD DRIVE

NEW INITIATIVES GRANT



By Priscilla Morello

First and foremost—We received the grant from the Conference!! We wrote back in September for a grant we called our New Initiatives Grant for our 75th Year of Ministry. We received \$9,000 of the requested amount of \$9,795!!

As a result, we will be able to implement all six of the new programs for the wellbeing of the congregation and to invite new families and friends into the fellowship at Winstead United Methodist!

We've already held two of those programs outlined in the grant. In January we had our first Lighthouse Friends evening and in February we held our first Parent's Night Out activity.

New Initiatives Grant Activities

Save the Dates

Sunday, March 17, 2024 Luncheon

Please plan to attend a luncheon after the worship service on Sunday, March 17th. It will be a prepared meal (funded by the grant) and will feature a short presentation that will introduce you to the new ministries we will implement this year!

Thursday, March 21, 2024 Lighthouse Friends

On Thursday, March 21st starting at 5:30 pm come on out for the next intergenerational **Lighthouse Friends!** It will be held from 5:30-7:00 pm at the church.

Once again this will include supper, crafts, activities, community-building and informal worship. Be on the lookout for more information and online registration.



The North Carolina Conference has seen this congregation at work over the past couple of years and knows we have something special that helps make a difference in people's lives. We are thankful to Pastor Rachel for her leadership of our small congregation that helps us to see that God is using us to make a difference in people's lives through faith in Christ Jesus.

HANDBELL FESTIVAL



Have you ever heard 400+ handbells and chimes ringing beautiful music together? Then that's the glorious sound heard at Winstead on Saturday, February 24, as 56 ringers from six area churches attended the Handbell Festival sponsored by the Greater Wilson Area Church Musicians Guild. Joyce Wolfe, clinician, put the ringers through their paces as they practiced all morning for a concert at 2:00 pm attended by a large crowd. Churches participating were First Baptist Church, Wilson, First Christian Church, First Presbyterian Church, First United Methodist Church, Nashville Baptist Church, Winstead United Methodist.



Practice, practice, practice.



Winstead's Grace Notes



And RING!

Winstead History Corner

By Sanda Hight

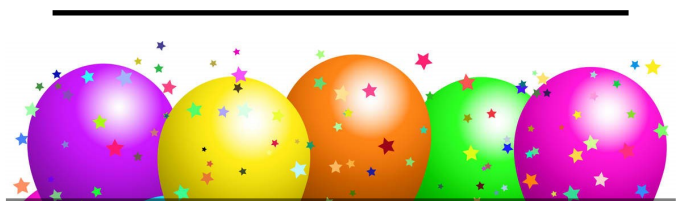
In February our Winstead History Corner focused on the former pastors of our church. This month we will remember those who had the vision and faith to organize a new church in Wilson, which was named Winstead Methodist Church. The following is taken from the "Winstead United Methodist Church History 1948-1999." (Notes: Much work was done in 1948 prior to the official establishment of the church in 1949. The Methodist Church later became the United Methodist Church.)

"On December 11, 1949, a meeting was held for the purpose of organizing the church. Eleven charter members had transferred their letters. These were: Miss Clee Winstead, Miss Zell Winstead, Miss Fannie Perry, Mrs. Elizabeth Underwood Morgan, Thomas H. Sanford, Sr., Mrs. Blanch Green Sanford, D. A. Baker, Mrs. Mary Bass Baker, John H. Rosser, Mrs. Berta Lamm Rosser, and Ernest Stith." All of these charter members are now deceased, yet their vision and faith are still alive as Winstead United Methodist Church is nearing the completion of 75 years in ministry in Wilson. We have witnessed many changes in the church, the community, and the world, yet we still march forward year by year as workers and witnesses of the message of Jesus Christ. The eleven charter members went on to build the first buildings on Tarboro Street. As they worked and prayed and organized, they became givers, Sunday School Superintendents, Trustees, Treasures, Lay Leaders, teachers of youth and adults, Official Board members, and served in numerous other areas. Following is one more quotation from the printed history: "It was at this organizational meeting on De-

ember 11, 1949, that the church was named Winstead Methodist Church in honor of Miss Zell and Miss Clee Winstead. Shortly after the church was organized, eight members were added. These members were Earl. J. McFarlane, Mrs. Nellie Butler McFarlane, George C. Winbon, Mrs. Bruce Edwards Winbon, J. Clifton Cale, Mrs. Marjorie Powell Cale, Brenda Cale, and Linda Cale. This made a total of nineteen members."

As we move toward our church's 75th anniversary, we will continue to remember the history of our church and make connections to the faith of our founders and the mission and witness of Winstead United Methodist Church in the 21st century.

Next month our history focus will be on how the church grew and established specific ministries to spread the Christian message in the community.



March Birthdays

Tonya Ferrell	3
Peggy Wilson.....	7
Pam Marshburn	10
Harry Barker	13
Jean Griffin	15
Zane Ruotolo.....	16
Steve Bennett.....	17
Ann Baker.....	18
Ryan Kirby	25
Fred Hight	27
Mandy Jenkins.....	28

March Anniversaries

Jim & Michelle Gillenwater.....	25
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MARCH AT WINSTEAD

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

Friday, March 1

8:00 pm Youth Lock-In

Sunday, March 3

9:30 am Sunday School for All

10:15 am Fellowship Time

10:30 am Worship

6:00 pm ECHO Youth

6:00 pm WAM Children's Choir

Monday, March 4

9:00 am Cooking Peanuts

Tuesday, March 5

2:00 pm Bible Study (Williams home)

2:00 pm Hand in Hand (pg. 5)

Wednesday, March 6

12:10 pm Community Lenten Service (back cover)

5:30 pm Grace Notes Rehearsal

7:00 pm Choir Practice

Thursday, March 7

9:30 am Bible Study (Wolfe home)

Sunday, March 10

Daylight Saving Time Begins

9:30 am Sunday School for All

10:15 am Fellowship Time

10:30 am Worship

11:30 am Drive-in Food Drive

6:00 pm ECHO Youth

6:00 pm WAM Children's Choir

Tuesday, March 12

2:00 pm Bible Study (Williams home)

Wednesday, March 13

12:10 pm Community Lenten Service (back cover)

5:30 pm Grace Notes Rehearsal

6:00 pm Men's Ensemble & True Tones Practice

7:00 pm Choir Practice

Thursday, March 14

9:30 am Bible Study (Wolfe home)

Saturday, March 16

10:00 am Women of Winstead (pg. 6)

Sunday, March 17

9:30 am Sunday School for All

10:15 am Fellowship Time

Sunday, March 17 (cont'd)

10:30 am Worship

11:30 am Luncheon (pg. 8)

6:00 pm ECHO Youth

6:00 pm WAM Children's Choir

Tuesday, March 19

2:00 pm Bible Study (Williams home)

Wednesday, March 20

12:10 pm Community Lenten Service (back cover)

5:30 pm Grace Notes Rehearsal

6:00 pm Men's Ensemble & True Tones Practice

7:00 pm Choir Practice

Thursday, March 21

9:30 am Bible Study (Wolfe home)

5:30 pm Lighthouse Friends (pg. 8)

Saturday, March 23

11:00 am Community Eggstravaganza

Sunday, March 24 - Palm Sunday

9:30 am Sunday School for All

10:15 am Fellowship Time

10:30 am Worship

6:00 pm ECHO Youth

Monday, March 25

Newsletter Deadline

Tuesday, March 26

2:00 pm Bible Study (Williams home)

Wednesday, March 27

5:30 pm Grace Notes Rehearsal

6:00 pm Men's Ensemble & True Tones Practice

7:00 pm Choir Practice

Thursday, March 28

9:30 am Bible Study (Wolfe Home)

6:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service

Friday, March 29

2:00 pm Good Friday Service @ First UMC

Sunday, March 31 - Easter Sunday

7:00 am Sunrise Service (Pavilion)

9:30 am Sunday School for All

10:15 am Fellowship Time

10:30 am Worship

6:00 pm No Youth Meeting



Winstead

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

Come, grow closer to God with us!

The Winstead Connection

Published monthly by:
Winstead United Methodist Church
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Wilson, NC 27893
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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

Wilson Community
Lenten Services

Wednesdays at 12:10pm, followed by lunch
suggested lunch donation: \$7

February 21, Winstead UMC, Rev. Scott Schieber preaching
February 28, First Christian Church, Rev. Daniel Pinell preaching
March 6, St. John's AME Zion Church, Rev. Heather Herrin Wong preaching
March 13, Howard Chapel at Barton College, Rev. Nick Demuynck preaching
March 20, Calvary Presbyterian Church, Rev. Edwin Ferguson preaching

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE, 2:00 p.m.
March 29, First UMC, Rev. Maurice Barnes preaching



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