

Winstead Connection



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

Dear Church,

You have been part of so many of my “firsts.” Some were expected and some were unexpected, but God worked through all of them. Now, I am experiencing yet another “first” which is sharing the news of my first reappointment. The pastoral appointment system is the only system I have ever known. It was something I was first born into and then one that I chose. I distinctly remember standing outside the new church nursery at six years old after yet another move thinking, “What could possibly make someone do this to their family?” It was in my call to ministry at ten years old that I found the answer. I was overcome with the grace of God as I read my Bible to myself in Mr. Mills’ 6th grade public classroom. It was at that moment that I realized this overwhelming grace of God made available for all people is what God had sent my dad to tell the world. God needed my dad in each place to help people learn how much God loved them. In that realization came what I could only describe as the Holy Spirit saying, “That’s what I need you to do too.”

At least once a year for the eight years I was in the ordination process, I had to explain my commitment to itinerancy, which is a fancy word for moving. Despite how hard it can be to leave a place, I believe that God is at work through this

process and the guiding force behind it. Even Jesus was itinerant, preaching in several different places, not putting down roots in one single place during his ministry. Last year in my ordination papers I wrote:

Kuda and I both know that we are where God has called us to be for this season and will continue to go wherever we are sent in the future. Through Winstead, I know that the Spirit worked through the Cabinet to lead me exactly where I was called to go. I will continue to trust that God will lead both Kuda and I where God calls us to go in the future.

In the United Methodist Church, a pastoral move can be initiated by the pastor, the Staff Parish Relations Committee, or happen independently of the two in cases of specific need (i.e., a pastor dies unexpectedly). In this case, it was initiated by me due to my family needs. Kuda’s churches are not able to continue supporting his positions which necessitated his reappointment. While I had hoped to be at Winstead longer, I told the district superintendent and cabinet that I would rather be reappointed if it meant that Kuda and I could be closer in distance and both remain in full-time appointments. Kuda and I have been working with

(Continued on page 2)



PASTOR RACHEL

(Continued from page 1)

distance constraints for all four years that I've been at Winstead. We have stretched as far as we could and while for a time, we thought we could keep going like this, we have accepted that this change may be a gift, despite the grief that comes with it.

You will always be my first church. You will always be in my heart. I am committed to doing everything I can in the time I have left here to equip you and your next pastor with what you all need to continue moving forward into the hope-filled future that God has for you. Know that in this time, I am still here with you and for you. Most importantly, God is still here and He will continue to be faithful through you.

Usually, when it is announced that a pastor is leaving, it is also announced who is coming behind them. When Randy Marshburn announced that Pastor George was moving in April of 2021, he told you who I was and what he had been told about me. This is not always the case. Sometimes, it takes longer. This year is one of those cases. It was announced in worship on April 27 that I am being reappointed but we do not yet know who will take my place. The bishop and cabinet want to ensure they are taking the time to listen to God's

leading and not rushing just for the sake of knowing a name. I know that it is hard not to know. But, there is still time. God is known to work during seasons of waiting. As you receive this news of my reappointment, I ask that you be open to God's work during the wait for the name of your new pastor. Pray for them. Pray for our church. Know that God will make a way.

In John 16:33, Jesus says to his disciples:

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

Take heart! God is still making all things new.

In God's Grace,

Pastor Rachel

Staff Parish Relations Committee

By MaryEllen Bass, Chair

The SPRC team and our congregation will host a farewell celebration for Pastor Rachel on Sunday, June 22. Watch for more details later.

Thank you.

Pastor Rachel is in the office Tuesday - Thursday 9:30-12:00.
She works remotely on Mondays but can be contacted if needed.
Fridays are her Sabbath.
Email: rkwashe@nccumc.org or cell phone: 252-408-3894

CHILDREN & YOUTH



*Marty Johnson,
Minister of Children & Youth
336-402-5000*

A special thank you to the Wilson Fire department and Dwayne Ward and his band!

And a really big thank you to Nancy and Malory Joyner for cooking the delicious hot dogs.

Again, Winstead family, thank you so much for loving our community through all of your acts of love at our annual Eggstravaganza!

See pictures on page 5.

Children & Youth Sunday School Easter Play

On Sunday April, 27 our youth, children and parents presented to us an Easter play during our worship service. This was the culmination of months of practice and learning the meaning of Easter, through the great story of our God's love for us!

I hope you all were able to witness the play and remember to thank all the children, youth and parents who were involved.

A very special thank you to Debbie Williams, who directed the play, and to Dwayne Jones for his help with staging. Pictures on page 4.

Winstead & West Nash Youth

Winstead UMC youth group, along with West Nash UMC youth group, enjoyed a great time of fellowship and fun as we had bible studies and devotions.

We will meet together the first and fourth Sundays of each month: 4 May @ Winstead and 25 May @ Winstead

If you have any other question, feel free to contact me, by texting or calling at 336-402-5000.

Thank You! Blessings,

Mr. Marty

Easter Eggstravaganza

Hey, church family, on Saturday, April, 12, we had our annual Easter Egg Hunt and Eggstravaganza. Although it was a very cool and windy day, we had a very good turnout. I just want to take this time to thank everyone in our church for all that you did. From donations of easter eggs filled with candies, to all the events that you helped provide; face painting, tattoos, games and crafts - I want to say Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

Marty Johnson, Minister of Children & Youth
Office hours: Tuesdays, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Email: martykeithjohnson@gmail.com or
Cell phone: 336-402-5000

ECHO YOUTH SCHEDULE

May 4

6:00 - 7:30 pm

West Nash @ Winstead

May 11

No Meeting

Happy Mother's Day

May 18

6:00 - 7:30

Body of Christ

May 25

6:00 - 7:30

West Nash @ Winstead

A Word on the Resurrection

The youth and children's Sunday Schools offered this play on Sunday, April 27.



The cast.



Doubting Thomas meets Jesus.



Fearful disciples.

History Corner

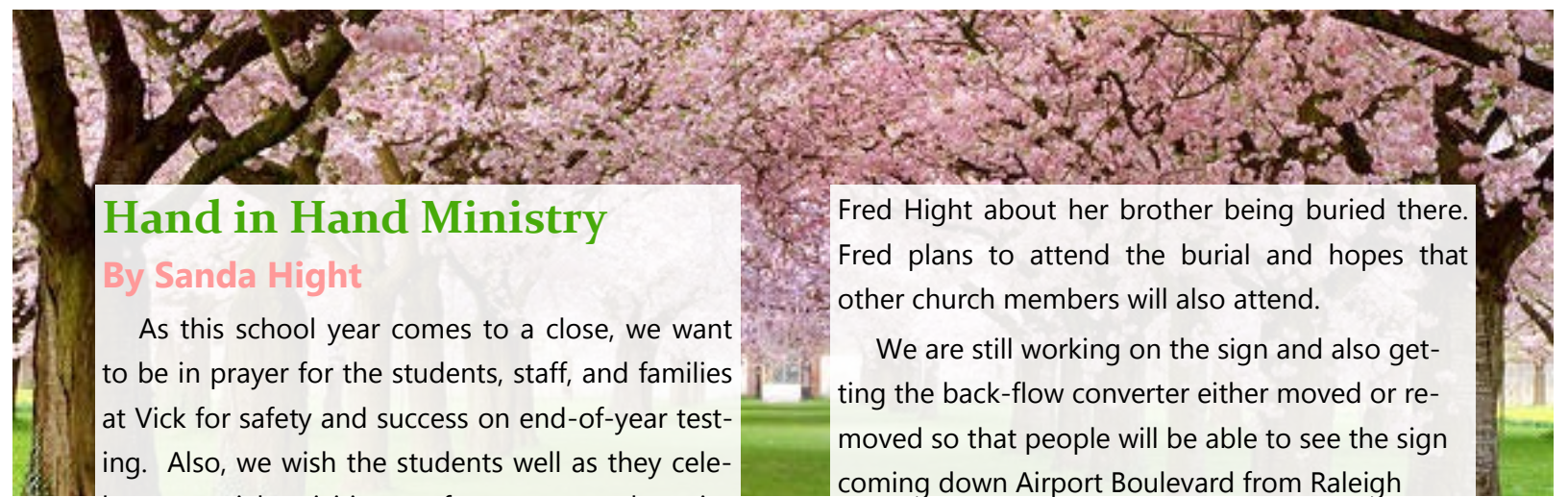
By Sanda Hight

A part of Winstead United Methodist Church's history is the Winstead Cemetery. The Winstead family established the cemetery many years ago on what was then the family property on South Tarboro Street in Wilson. The founders of our church, Miss Clee Winstead and Miss Zell Winstead, are buried in the cemetery, along with a number of other family members. The Winstead family property was eventually sold and developed as Parkwood Mall, but Winstead United Methodist Church remains the trustee of the cemetery. The property is currently owned by the City of Wilson, and the cemetery still remains within a fence near the south boundary of the city property.

A member of the Winstead extended family recently contacted the Trustees of our church to inform them of an upcoming burial of a member of the Winstead family. The burial will be in June. Since we continue to have a connection to the Winstead family through this cemetery and also through their generosity and hard work to found our church, it is fitting that some of our church members attend the burial and reconnect with some of the living members of the Winstead family. More details about the burial are in the Trustees report and will also be in the June newsletter. Let us continue to hold the Winstead family and their cemetery dear in our hearts and in our church's history.

EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA





Hand in Hand Ministry

By Sandra Hight

As this school year comes to a close, we want to be in prayer for the students, staff, and families at Vick for safety and success on end-of-year testing. Also, we wish the students well as they celebrate special activities, performances, and parties to end the school year.

Our congregation signed and sent Prayer Partner cards for April. Cards for May will be available for signing on Sunday May 11 and Sunday May 18 in the narthex. We hope that many members of our congregation will sign cards this last time for the school year.

The Hand in Hand Committee will provide a special treat of strawberry shortcake and Winstead peanuts to observe Teacher Appreciation Week on Thursday May 8.

Please remember that we will once again provide "Books for Vick" in December. We want to keep this special book project in mind all year.

Thanks to all who have contributed to our partner school in some way this year. We love our friends at Vick, and we value our time spent with them.

Trustees

by Fred Hight, Chair

You can look beside the shelter at the rear of the church property and see the new storage building. Linda Lane and Fred Hight have keys to the building and will decide what will be stored there. The building is 10 feet by 20 feet.

There will be a burial in the Winstead Cemetery on June 10. The deceased is Venson Barreit, Jr. His sister, Martha Rowsey, recently contacted

Fred Hight about her brother being buried there. Fred plans to attend the burial and hopes that other church members will also attend.

We are still working on the sign and also getting the back-flow converter either moved or removed so that people will be able to see the sign coming down Airport Boulevard from Raleigh Road. More news about the sign will be reported as it becomes available.

Women of Winstead

by Sandra Hight

WOW (Women of Winstead) had a successful chicken salad sale on April 3. Approximately 130 pounds of chicken salad were sold this year to church members and community friends. Thanks to all who made preparations prior to the sale, to all who placed orders, and all who worked in the kitchen to make the chicken salad. A report will be given later about profits made and how the profits will be distributed to community needs.

WOW will meet on Saturday, May 17 at 9:00 at Cracker Barrel to evaluate this year's chicken salad fundraiser and make decisions about distributing profits. All women of the church are invited to the May meeting, the last meeting before the summer break. If you have questions about WOW, please contact Karen Rowley.

We are sad at the loss of Marie Stutts, who died on April 7. Marie served as vice-president of our organization for a number of years. We will miss her sweet spirit and her love for her family and church.

Pastor Rachel has asked WOW to provide beverages for a meeting at the church on Thursday May 15 for a conference meeting. Details for that event will be shared with WOW members soon.

OUTREACH

by Priscilla Morello

The Outreach Committee met recently for its quarterly meeting and decided on the best way to help local ministries with both the food drive monetary donations and the generous \$1,500 donation from the Peanut Ministry.

Those nonprofits or ministries that will benefit from the Peanut Ministry donation are:

- \$500 to Rise Against Hunger
- \$250 to Meals on Wheels
- \$250 to CHEW
- \$250 to Hope Station
- \$250 to the Soup Kitchen

The food drive donations will go to help Barnes Chapel, Mt. Zion HOPE ministry, and Seeds of Hope Wilson's food ministry as well as helping the Rise Against Hunger initiative.

All of these outreach efforts are made possible by your individual donations as well as by the Peanut Ministry. Thank you for blessing so many lives through these efforts.



COMING UP - THE CHRISTMAS IN JULY EVENT!

Once again, we will be preparing Project Agape boxes for children in Armenia and we would like to start collecting items NOW!

We would like to do at least 50 boxes for girls ages 3-6 and 50 boxes for boys ages 3-6.

To start us off, for the month of May, we will collect 100 of each of the following items:

- 24-pack Boxes of Crayons (Crayola)
- Packs of Washable Markers (8-10 makers)
- Combs

Bring your items to church and place in the **PROJECT AGAPE COLLECTION BOX**



Don't forget---the Rise Against Hunger event is this coming Saturday, May 3 from 10-12 noon at Evansdale UMC. Call Priscilla for details—252-236-8673

YOU MUST REGISTER IN ADVANCE! To register, go to: events.riseagainsthunger.org/evansdaleumc25

Or use the QR Code on the flyer below.



IN MEMORIAM



Marie Bailey Stutts, 89, of Jacksonville, formally of Wilson, passed away peacefully on Monday, April 7, 2025.

A Celebration of Life service was held at Joyner's Funeral Home on Sunday, April 13. The Rev. Rachel Kwashe officiated.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Glenn Edgar Stutts, whom she dearly missed since his passing in 2007; Mother, Ellen Bailey; Great Granddaughter, Ava Marie Tyndall; Great Grandson, Christian Lane Edwards; Brother, Milton Bailey; Sister, Eva Bailey Williford; Nephew, Gene Aubrey Pearson.

Her career spanned over 30 years as a hair-stylist beside her dear friend, Peggy Raper. She was an active member of Winstead UMC, the Order of the Eastern Star Chapter 145 and loved volunteering in the library at Pollocks-ville Elementary School. Some of her favorite things included sitting on the front porch with Glenn watching bluebirds and listening to them sing, enjoying gatherings with her friends. Most importantly she cherished spending time with her family and loved each and every one ferociously. She was a loving mother, sister, grandmother and great-grandmother. Heaven has gained an angel.

She is survived by her four children, Milton Keith Stutts (Terri), Stephen Wayne Stutts, Lisa Stutts Tedder (Butch), Stacy Stutts Dristle (Ed); six Grandchildren, Jamie Lynn Tyndall, Callie

Stutts Gill (Justin), Jeri Lynn Edwards (James), Cullen Benson Stutts (Amy), Jared Patrick Tate (Kennedi), Ezekiel Kane Dristle; eight Great-Grandchildren, Ayden Lane Tyndall, Bentley Glenn Tyndall, Sydney Jade Edwards, Jensen Glenn Tate, Rowan Becton Stutts, Keegan Frances Stutts, Charlotte Elizabeth Gill, and Olivia Gray Gill; Nephew, James (Jim) Allan Bailey.

Marie had a compassionate and generous heart and would prefer memorials in lieu of flowers sent in support to: Winstead United Methodist Church, 1851 Airport Blvd. W, Wilson, NC 27893; Make-A-Wish Foundation, 3809 Computer Drive Suite 201, Raleigh, NC 27609; Mulligans Fore Kids, PO Box 3413, Wilson, NC 27895; Pennies from Angels, PO Box 511, Black Creek, NC 27813.

To Steve, Stacey, Ed and Ezekiel: from Keith and Lisa, on behalf of the entire family, our sincerest and most heartfelt gratitude for the unconditional and unwavering love and care you provided to our mother during her last years.

The family would like to extend immense gratitude to Wilson Rehabilitation & Nursing Center for their loving care, support and compassion they provided for Marie these last five weeks.

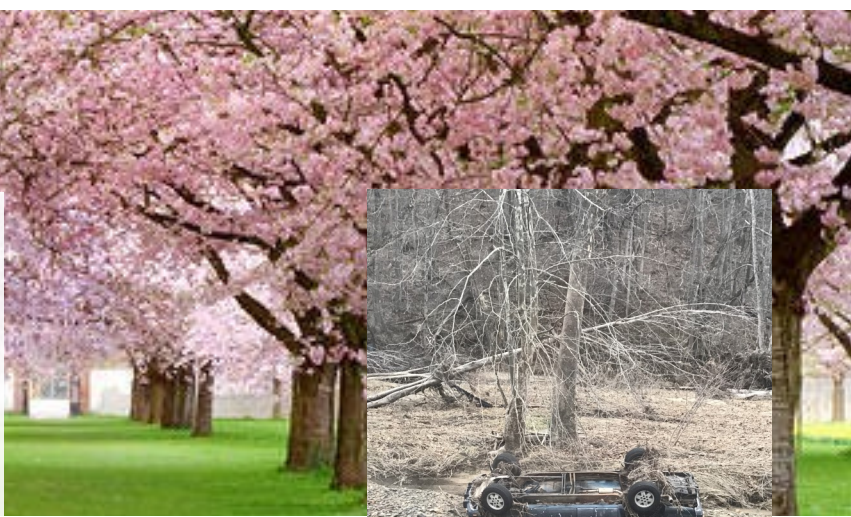
Mom/Granny Re, you will be forever missed, and we love you a bushel and a peck!

Western NC Update

I just wanted to send an update and another note of thanks. It has been six months since Hurricane Helene devastated our little mountain county. Relief efforts have turned into recovery efforts. Some people are repairing homes. Some people are rebuilding. Many people are still in campers.

My husband and I have worked to help three families replace household items, furniture, and appliances. We have started on a fourth. They have started focusing on debris cleanup in the New River and large debris trucks and machinery running down the middle of the river is becoming a common sight. Many parts of our county still looks like a war zone. I visited a teacher friend in Creston the other day and there is a piece of the highway lying between her house and the next. But progress is slowly being made. For that I am grateful. I have attached some pictures of an elderly couple we helped with some of the gift cards you sent and some current pictures of the county. Thank you again for all your help and prayers. We appreciate you not forgetting us. God bless.

Martie Latham



Change of Address

Priscilla Morello has moved. Her new address is:

1720 Parkwood Blvd. W
Apt. 204
Wilson, NC 27893

May Birthdays

Caroline Harper	1
Graham Brock.....	3
Greg Griffin.....	6
Alayna Wilson.....	29
Ricky Wilson.....	29
Tessa Kirby.....	30

May Anniversaries

Chris & Sandy Pittman.....	9
Don & Ophelia Taylor	10
Joe & Vicky Harper.....	12
Kevin & Jennifer O'Brien	23
Jake & Joyce Wolfe	31

MAY AT WINSTEAD

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

Thursday, May 1

9:30 am Bible Study (Wolfe home)

Saturday, May 3

10:00 am Rise against Hunger (Evansdale UMC)
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Sunday, May 4

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

Tuesday, May 6

10:00 am Wellness Class
11:10 am The Grand Sweep Bible Study
2:00 pm Bible Study (Winstead UMC)
2:00 pm Hand in Hand Committee
3:00 pm Finance Meeting

Wednesday, May 7

5:30 pm Grace Notes Rehearsal
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 8

9:30 am Bible Study (Wolfe home)

Sunday, May 11

Happy Mother's Day

9:30 am Sunday School for All
10:15 am Fellowship Time
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Drive-In Food Drive

Monday, May 12

Cooking Peanuts

Tuesday, May 13

10:00 am Wellness Class
11:10 am The Grand Sweep Bible Study
2:00 pm Bible Study (Winstead UMC)

Wednesday, May 14

5:30 pm Grace Notes Rehearsal
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 15

9:30 am Bible Study (Wolfe home)
11:00 am District Pastor's Meeting

Saturday, May 17

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

Sunday, May 18

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

Tuesday, May 20

10:00 am Wellness Class
11:10 am The Grand Sweep Bible Study
2:00 pm Bible Study (Winstead UMC)

Wednesday, May 21

7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 22

9:30 am Bible Study (Wolfe home)

Sunday, May 25- Newsletter Deadline

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

Tuesday, May 27

10:00 am Wellness Class
11:10 am The Grand Sweep Bible Study
2:00 pm Bible Study (Winstead UMC)

Wednesday, May 28

7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 29

9:30 am Bible Study (Wolfe home)

On the Calendar

Remember to let the office know about committee or group meetings (scheduled or canceled for the summer) so that they are reflected accurately on the online calendar and in the bulletin.



1851 Airport Blvd. W
Wilson, NC 27893

Pastor Rev. Rachel Kwashe
Minister of Children & Youth Marty Johnson
Minister of Music Sandy Pittman
Handbell Choir Director Joyce Wolfe
Church Musician Faye Jones
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
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
10:15 am Fellowship Time
10:30 am Worship
6:00 pm ECHO Youth
6:00 pm WAM (Children's Choir)

Pastor : Rev. Rachel Kwashe
Email: rkwashe@nccumc.org

Sunday, May 11
Leave your items on the table
in the foyer.



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