

Winstead Connection



Interim Pastor Bob Bergland
(phone) (252) 469-9818

From the Pastor

Dear Friends,

When I heard the news of the person who has been appointed to Winstead UMC was Patrick Murphy, I was absolutely thrilled! I first met Patrick back in 1991 when I was appointed as the pastor of Trinity UMC in Elizabethtown, NC. In fact, our middle son Andrew is the same age as Patrick and they played together, went to pre-school, elementary school, and middle school together. You can say, Patrick and I (my family included) have some history together.

You all have been so gracious to receive me on an interim basis, and I know that you will do the same for Patrick and his entire family. Saying that is one thing, doing it is quite another as you welcome a new pastor to come and serve as shepherd among you. And with that also comes the opportunity to welcome and receive Patrick's wife Brittany and their sons Finley and Asher.

Some of you are well acquainted with how this is done, but allow me to share something that might help us understand what this all looks like. In the *Book of Worship* there is an Order for Celebrating a New Appointment. Part of that Order goes like this:

Patrick, accept this Bible, and be among us as one who proclaims the Word. Amen.

Patrick, take this water, and baptize new Christians in this place. Amen.

Patrick, take this bread and cup, and keep us in communion with Christ and his Church. Amen.

Patrick, use this hymnal and book of worship to guide us in our prayer and praise. Amen.

Patrick, receive this Book of Discipline, and help us keep the covenant that strengthens our connections as United Methodists. Amen.

Patrick, receive this globe, and lead us in our mission to this community and all the world. Amen.

Patrick, receive this stole, signifying your ordination, and shepherd us as our pastor. Amen.

I am so very thankful for the wisdom of Bishop Shelton and the Cabinet for appointing Patrick to come and serve among you. Across the month of August I will continue to serve you on an interim basis as we prepare to welcome the Murphy family.

Blessings,
Pastor Bob

CHILDREN & YOUTH



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

Blessing of the Backpacks August 24

It's hard to believe, but summer is slowly coming to an end. Soon kids will be back in school. Getting ready is a major event in most households. This is also true as we get ready to send off our youth and children to school with the support of our congregation through prayers and blessings. This is both biblical in terms of "we are to pray for one another" and "bear one another's burden" as well as teaching our children to live out their faith and to share it with all they come in contact with.

On Sunday, August 24, we will have the Blessing of the Backpacks. This is a reminder to our students that we are supportive of their growth with both man and God. I asked everyone to put that

date on their calendars and make sure you are there for our students.

On that Sunday we will ask students and educators to bring forth backpacks, briefcases, laptops or any item used in school and for education that we might bring them forth and ask God's blessing upon them.

Youth and Children's Sunday School

Fall Sunday School will begin Sunday, September 7 @ 9:30 in the morning.

We are very grateful for our Sunday School teachers and their commitment to sharing the Word of God and teaching the Word of God to our children and youth. If you would be interested in helping with teaching, please contact me (Mr. Marty) or Jodi Ruotolo, our Sunday School Superintendent.

Please be in prayer for our teachers and our students as we begin a new school year and new Sunday School year. Our children will continue their journey through the Bible with this year taking us through the New Testament. The children will be learning stories of Jesus and the apostles, like Peter, Paul and John.

Up Coming Fall Events

Saturday, October 25th

Fall Festival Trunk or Treat

November 7-9

Pilgrimage 2025, Rocky Mount, NC

ECHO YOUTH SCHEDULE

August 3

6:00 - 7:30 pm ECHO Triangle

August 10

6:00 - 7:30 pm Watermelon night

August 17

6:00 - 7:30 pm Homemade Ice Cream

August 24

No Youth - School Open House

August 31

No Youth - Labor Day Weekend

IN MEMORIAM

Jean Stith Griffin, 89, of Wilson, died Monday, July 21, 2025.

A Celebration of Life Service was held at Winstead United Methodist Church on July 24.

Jean grew up in a small blue-collar family with her parents and one sister. She played the trumpet in her middle school band and later became a majorette in high school. She loved acting and performing in front of crowds and wanted to become a movie star, although she eventually applied to become an airline stewardess. Soon after that, she met the love of her life, Bill, the baseball star, at the famous Creamery Restaurant in the mid 50s. She and Bill later married in August of 1956, and since Bill came from a large family with eight brothers and three sisters, they soon started their own family eventually having three daughters and two sons.

She worked at Swift and Co., which later became Dinner Bell Foods, for 27 years. After leaving Dinner Bell, she worked for several years at Food Lion and 1st Natl Bank, and finally retired from Sprint Yellow Pages after 10 years of service. Jean quickly found retirement wasn't for her, so she began working for her son, Carey, in the insurance business until back surgery confined her to a wheel chair.

Jean was very active in her younger years, and being adventurous, wasn't afraid to try something new. She loved children and started the first Rock Ridge cheerleading group, and also coached a



March 15, 1936 — July 21, 2025

Wilson little league baseball team when her sons started playing ball.

She directed the Winstead United Methodist Church choir for 30 years, played handbells for over 25 years, directed all the youth plays at the church, and also enjoyed directing many weddings during that time. She had a gorgeous soprano voice and sang and traveled with the Wilson Chorale group for many years.

She loved sports, and attended most of her grandkids sporting events as often as she could.

Jean never met a stranger and loved talking with folks and meeting new people. She loved her church, church family and God. She was truly a unique and loving person and will be missed by many.

She is survived by her children, Vicky Harper (Joe) of Wilson, Robin Lomax of Wilson, Carey Griffin (Cathy) of Wilson, B.J. Griffin-Parker of Wilson, and Greg Griffin (Sonya) of Kenly; grandchildren, Caroline and Garrett Harper, Hannah Lomax, Colton and Connor Griffin, Griffin Parker, and McKenna Griffin.

Mrs. Griffin was preceded in death by her husband, William Carey Griffin, and her parents, Raymond and Addie Mae Sullivan Stith; sister, Joan Hartley.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Winstead United Methodist Church, Building Fund, 1851 Airport Blvd NW, Wilson, NC 27893.

Finance Report

Please take time to review the financial state of our church. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Gretchen Hunt or Linda Lane.

General Budget Totals

June Expenses	\$15,185.63
June Income	<u>\$17,968.47</u>
June Budget Shortage	\$ 2,782.61
YTD Expenses through June	\$117,138.38
YTD Income through June	<u>\$ 87,126.55</u>
YTD Budget Shortage through June	\$ 30,011.83

In Memoriam

Marie Israel

Marie Loula Wright Israel, 102, passed away on Thursday, June 26, 2025.

A native of Buncombe Co., Marie was a daughter of the late Fred and Loula Morgan Wright. She was also preceded in death by her husband, James Albert Israel.

She is survived by her son, Fred Israel (Lynn); grandchildren, Shane Israel, Cam Israel (Angie), and Ashley Smith (Keith); and four great-grandchildren.

Private burial was held at Snow Hill United Methodist Church Cemetery.

Groce Funeral Home, West Asheville, assisted the family. The online register is available at grocefuneralhome.com.



Hand in Hand

By Sanda Hight, Chair



The Hand in Hand Committee will meet on Tuesday, August 5 to plan for activities and services for Vick Elementary School for the 2025-2026 school year. We have already had contact with the school secretary concerning things we can do this year. We will be making decisions on Prayer Partners again this year, along with a school supply drive, a back-to-school meal for the staff, "Books for Vick," help with student activities, and other ways to support our partner school. Please plan to do the following to be supportive of Vick this year:

- Participate in the Prayer Partner program.
- Make donations to any drives we have this year to support the students with school supplies, books, etc.
- Consult the bulletin and newsletter for upcoming activities to volunteer and help in other ways and say "Yes" when you are called about an opportunity to help.
- Pray faithfully for the safety and success of the students, staff, and families associated with the school.

This will be our 24th year of partnership with Vick. We are expecting another great year of service and outreach.



Staff Parish Relations Committee

By Peggie Shultz, Chair

Bishop Shelton has announced that Rev. Patrick Murphy has been appointed to Winstead UMC beginning September 1.

Patrick is a life-long United Methodist, blessed with his loving and supportive spouse, Brittany, who is a physical therapist. Together they are parents of two children: Finley who will turn six in August and Asher who will be three in September.

Patrick is a graduate of Methodist University in Fayetteville and Duke Divinity School. He has served as a pastor in the NC Conference for thirteen years.

We are excited for this next chapter in our church's life.



Trustees

by Fred Hight, Chair

The backflow converter (in the large metal box by Airport Blvd.) has been removed and inspected by the city, and the hole has been filled in and seeded.

Matt Efird said that he has been talking with the city inspectors to try to resolve the problem with the depth of the trench that contains the power source to the digital sign. Linda Lane and Fred Hight have talked to Matt, and we know everyone is tired of seeing the open trench in the yard. We hope the problem will be resolved soon.

All the air filters in the church and the peanut building have been inspected and/or replaced. Performance Heating and Air Conditioning has serviced all the air conditioning units in the church and the peanut building. They will service them in April in the following years.

At least part of the outside of the church will be power washed soon.

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

Outreach News

by Priscilla Morello, Chair

Thank you to everyone who came out to pack boxes during our Christmas in July event for the Agape Project. We were able to put together 100 boxes that will be sent to children in Armenia.

AUGUST AT WINSTEAD

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

Sunday, August 3

9:30 am Sunday School for All
10:15 am Fellowship Time
10:30 am Worship
6:00 pm ECHO Youth

Tuesday, August 5

10:00 am Wellness Class
2:00 pm Hand in Hand

Sunday, August 10

9:30 am Sunday School for All
10:15 am Fellowship Time
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Drive-In Food Drive
3:00 pm ECHO Youth

Monday, August 11

Cooking Peanuts

Tuesday, August 12

10:00 am Wellness Class

Sunday, August 17

9:30 am Sunday School for All
10:15 am Fellowship Time
10:30 am Worship
6:00 pm ECHO Youth

Tuesday, August 19

10:00 am Wellness Class
3:00 pm Finance Committee

Sunday, August 24

9:30 am Sunday School for All
10:15 am Fellowship Time
10:30 am Worship

Monday, August 25

Newsletter Deadline

Cooking Peanuts

Tuesday, August 26

10:00 am Wellness Class

Sunday, August 31

9:30 am Sunday School for All
10:15 am Fellowship Time
10:30 am Worship

Pastor Bob is in the office Monday & Tuesday
9:00 am to Noon
Email: rbergland@nccumc.org or
cell phone: 252-469-9818

August Birthdays

Ophelia Taylor.....3
Peggie Shultz6
Madison Ferrell.....8
Josiah Kirby.....9
Brenda Pitt.....13
Kathy Creech19
Carey Griffin.....23
Lisa Tedder.....27

Wear Your Name Tag

Please wear your name tag each Sunday. Find yours in the cabinet in the Narthex and return it after the service so it is available each week. If you don't have a name tag, contact the office.



1851 Airport Blvd. W
Wilson, NC 27893

Interim Pastor

Rev. Bob Bergland

Minister of Children & Youth

Marty Johnson

Minister of Music

Sandy Pittman

Organist & 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. Bob Bergland
Email: rbergland@nccumc.org

Sunday, August 10
Leave your items on the table
in the foyer.



Find us on:
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