

Winstead Connection



Pastor Patrick Murphy

On his way to be executed in Rome in the early Second Century, St. Ignatius of Antioch wrote a number of letters to encourage churches living under the pressure of the Roman Empire to stand firm in their faith, and to celebrate rather than mourn his coming martyrdom. As strange as that last part sounds, early Christians believed that martyrdom united them most closely to the sufferings of Christ. To join in a death like Christ's was a privilege. Ignatius shunned fear and witnessed powerfully to the risen Christ until the bitter end.

In one of his letters, Ignatius argued, "Christianity is not a matter of persuading people of particular ideas, but of inviting them to share in the greatness of Christ." As a response to the classical dialogue and debate forms of his Greco-Roman context, Ignatius invited the Church to communicate the Gospel through a witness that points to the greatness of Jesus Christ.

This is why domineering expressions of Christianity ultimately fall short. Regrettably great energy is wasted on such efforts. After all Jesus does not call the Church to coerce and convince others with proofs and clever talking points. Engaging in culture wars also misses the mark, not to mention the enterprise is both exhausting and boring.

Give

THANKS

These ideologies always present a small God and a very one-dimensional Christ, one with little room for those outside of whatever narrow, prescribed beliefs they peddle.

The good news is that God doesn't need us to prove God exists, nor does Jesus need us to defend his lordship.

Instead the Church is called, as Ignatius argued, to invite others to share in the greatness of Christ. What do we mean by this? We mean that in Christ we become something new. As the apostle Paul would have it, "the former things have passed away," and now "there is no longer Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male and female; we are all one in Christ Jesus." The old designations are gone, Paul argues, we are a new creation. That means we're called to a new and better witness, one that reveals the transforming power of God's grace through Jesus Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

We embody the greatness of Christ not by successfully arguing for a Christian worldview or defending the faith against certain types of people. We embody the greatness of Christ by how close we get to suffering and by how willing we are to serve, which is all to say, by how much we love.

To this end St. Ignatius prayed, "I wish not merely to be called Christian, but to **be** Christian." Let us **be** Christian. Let us follow Jesus.

CHILDREN & YOUTH



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

4th Christmas Basket Auction

Believe it or not it is time for our annual Christmas Basket Silent Auction!

We would like to invite all of our groups in the church: WOW, UMM, choir, handbells, bible study groups, Sunday school classes, youth group and individuals, to prepare a Christmas basket for our silent auction.

The money for this fundraiser goes to our youth and their programs throughout the year. You may bring your Christmas basket by Sunday, November 30 and leave in the Narthex. That gives everyone 14 days to put in their bid.

At our church-wide Christmas party on December 14 you can put in your last bid from 4:30 to 5:00! We will have refreshments and finger food during this time of fellowship and bidding!

At 5:00 we will head into the sanctuary and have our annual Christmas Party with singing, games and fellowship! At the end, we will announce the winning bids of the Christmas Baskets.

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

If you have any other questions, feel free to text or call me.

Christmas Party

Sunday, December 14, 4:30 - 6:00

Everyone is welcome and invited to our Church-Wide Christmas Party.

We will kick off the evening with refreshments and finger food while many are making their last bid for our Christmas baskets. This is a great time of fellowship with conversation and wishing everyone blessings and a Merry Christmas. Then at 5:00, we will head into the sanctuary for singing, celebration, games, great fellowship and a few surprises.

We will end the evening by announcing the winners of the Christmas Baskets! I hope everyone will come and enjoy the time together as we celebrate this most wonderful and sacred season of the year!! If you have any questions or you would like to help out with setting up or cleaning up, please let me know!

Fall Festival Trunk or Treat

We had a great time at our fall festival & trunk or treat. Thank you so much to all of our Winstead family who participated in the trunk or treat. Also, thank you to everyone who helped by volunteer-

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)
Children & Youth

ing with the games and other activities. What a blessing it was to be in our community and be involved in sharing with them during this special season of the year!

Pumpkin Patch

I would like to thank everyone who helped out with the Pumpkin Patch. A special thank you goes to the Contentnea fire department, honor students from Fike, Hunt, and North Johnston high schools who helped out as volunteers! And a very, very heartfelt thank you to Ms. Linda Lane for all her help and organizational skills!! I also wish to thank Winstead UMC for their support!

November 7-9

Pilgrimage 2025 in Rocky Mount, NC

Cost is \$75 dollars per person or \$200 for a family of 3 or more.

Payment is DUE NOW!

ECHO YOUTH SCHEDULE

New Starting Time - 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

November 2

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm Banner Building

November 9

No Youth Group

November 16

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm @ West Nash

November 23

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm @ West Nash

November 30

No Youth Group

Women of Winstead **by Sanda Hight**

Women of Winstead (WOW) met on Saturday, October 18 with five members present. A decision was made about donating profits from the April chicken salad sale to needs in the church and community. A donation of \$400 has been made to help with the "Books for Vick" project. Also, \$400 has been sent to the playground equipment fund for our church.

There will be a Christmas tea sponsored by WOW on Sunday, December 7 at 3:00 pm at the church. Women and girls of the church are invited to attend, along with friends and family members who wish to go. The event will include enjoying a variety of teas, cookies and other finger foods, door prizes, Christmas decorations, and conversation to celebrate the Christmas season. Please look for a sign-up sheet posted in the narthex in late November to help WOW plan for an accurate number of people. This event will help the women of our church prepare for the Christmas season and its meaning to our lives. Please follow future announcements about this event as more details are finalized.

We remind the congregation that Women of Winstead provide the Upper Room in small and large print for members of the church to use in spiritual devotional. The Upper Room is available free of charge and can be found on a table in the narthex.

The next WOW meeting will be on Saturday, November 15 at 10:00 am at the church. We invite all women of the church to become a member of this group for service and fellowship.

FALL FESTIVAL



FALL FESTIVAL



New Adult Sunday School Class

by Pastor Patrick

Do you ever wonder why we're called "Methodists," and specifically, "United Method-ists?" Do you ever ask what makes us "Methodist" Christians and wonder what God needs Method-ists for?

During the Sunday School hour, I will be lead- ing a course designed to carry us through the his- tory of Methodism beginning with John and Charles Wesley, highlight our theological empha- ses and the significance of our mission, and an- swer why in the world God would raise up a peo- ple called Methodists.

Join us at 9:30 am in the Adult Sunday School space. See you then!

Hand in Hand

by Sanda Hight, Chair

Hand in Hand outreach activities are numerous during the fall. We will help Vick elementary staff with picture day on Nov. 13 again this year. We will also provide treats for the staff during Ameri- can Education Week, which will be celebrated from Nov. 18 - 22 this year. We appreciate all educa- tors, but we especially appreciate those at our partner school. Prayer Partner cards have been delivered for November. Thanks to all who signed them and wrote messages to the participating Prayer Partners at Vick.

Our annual "Books for Vick" project is under way. We have selected book titles for grades K-5 and are planning to place an order in November. If you plan to donate to the gift of books for the students at Vick this year, please place your dona- tion in the offering plate and designate your check or cash donation to "Books for Vick." As always, we appreciate all the grants, groups within the church, and individuals who donate so that chil- dren can have books for their home library. We all understand the importance of reading for children at school and at home. We are constantly finding ways to share our love for children in the commu- nity. Also, please read all information and an- nouncements about Hand in Hand activities and opportunities in the newsletter, bulletin, and on the screen during worship.

Please keep all students, staff, and families at Vick Elementary School in prayer for safety and academic success.



November Birthdays

Audrey Miller.....	3
Danny Wilson.....	7
Ray Williams	8
Clarence Proctor	13
Becky Holland	15
Edwina Kaeser.....	16
Margaret Brinkley	18
Chase Ferrell	21
Olivia Brock.....	27
Claudine Perkins	27



OUTREACH

by Priscilla Morello

The Outreach Committee had its third quarter meeting on Thursday, October 16. The committee always receives updates from our Hand in Hand Partnership and from Seeds of Hope Wilson. We are so thankful for these ongoing ministries that make a big difference in the lives of so many.

We discussed some of what we have accomplished this year and decided to commit to helping with Pastor Patrick's Pumpkin Patch but not try to do the Whirligig Festival for this year only. The festival this year is right on the heels of the pumpkin patch and we felt it would be too difficult to navigate both events.

We will be hosting the "Hole Lotta Love" ministry again this year which takes place on Christmas Eve. As many of you remember, we had church volunteers take boxes of donut holes to those people who had to work on Christmas Eve. It's a way to bring the joy of the season to those who cannot be with their families on December 24th. More information will be forthcoming in the December newsletter.

One of our members asked the Outreach Committee to re-consider how we disseminate the food drive monetary donations. We usually send out funds to several organizations on a quarterly basis and this member thought we should perhaps send it out monthly. The committee gave thoughtful consideration to request but decided to continue our practice of helping organizations with monetary donations on a quarterly basis. The money builds up over a three month period so

that we are able to donate a sizable amount to four organizations. We have helped various groups over this year such as Hope Station, Barnes Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, and the Soup Kitchen. This quarter, we will donate \$460 to each of these nonprofits: Seeds of Hope Wilson, CHEW, Mt. Zion UMC's H.O.P.E. ministry, and Waymakers of North Carolina. All of these groups are making a difference to food-insecure people and pray for their work and gladly donate to their ministries on behalf of Winstead UMC.

I'm so proud to serve with a congregation that looks out for those who are in need. May we always be receptive and responsive as we continue to minister in Wilson.

Grant Update

We have just about come to the end of our second and last year of grant funds to help us with community outreach activities.

Thank you so much for your support this year! The last big event that grant money was spent on was our Fall Festival and Trunk or Treat! What a great day we had with so many of you participating in various ways!

Earlier this year we had our Easter Eggstravaganza, two community dinners, Lighthouse Friends activities, Saturday of Service which included the Rise Against Hunger event in May and the Christmas in July event. We continue to work with families at Vick Elementary School by paying \$100 on a family's utility bill each month. Our most success-

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)
Outreach

ful grant activity has been the Winstead Wellness Fitness Class with Emmy Isbell. We are continuing to get fit as we enjoy the comradery of the group. We are planning a cookie exchange in November or December. And we look forward to continuing this particular ministry into the new year.

We will need to be thinking about how we might fund some of these ministries starting in 2026 since our grant was only good for two years but I am confident that our congregation will step up with ideas and funds to help us continue to reach out in effective ways to our community.

Finance Report

By Linda Lane, Chair

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

September	
Expenses	23,514.65
Income	<u>15,866.84</u>
Budget Shortage	\$ (7,647.81)
YTD Expenses	169,393.94
YTD Income	<u>143,048.47</u>
YTD Budget Shortage	\$(26,345.47)

A Home Blessing—Some Thoughts

by Priscilla Morello

"Throughout Scripture, the concept of a physical dwelling often reflects deeper spiritual truths...From Israel's tents in the wilderness to the early Christian gatherings in private homes, the biblical narrative shows that where God's people dwell, His presence is sought, and His blessing is desired." (from Bible.Hub online)



In the many years I have lived here in Wilson, I have sought to have my home blessed each time I moved to a new place. Pastors David Haley, George Loveland, and Rachel Kwashe have all at various times blessed the places I have called home.

Many of you know that in April I moved into the senior living facility known as The Landing. I did not have anyone come to bless my apartment at that time. But as soon as I moved from my first apartment (204) to my current home (307) I desired to have my home blessed.

Pastor Patrick willingly came and offered prayers at the front door, the dining room, the living room, the kitchen, and the bedroom. Praying over each area was a way to ask God's spirit to dwell in this place and to grant peace, hospitality, fellowship, and goodwill to all who enter this place.

It was a beautiful home blessing and was witnessed by three of my new and dear friends here at the Landing. I was so thankful that Pastor Patrick was able to come and meet my friends and invoke God's blessing on this place that Smokey Joe and I call home.

Talk to Pastor Patrick if you would desire to consecrate your home to the loving Spirit of the Lord. It is a beautiful, brief service of prayers that will bless you as well as your home!

NOVEMBER AT WINSTEAD

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

Sunday, November 2

Daylight Saving Time Ends

- 9:30 am Sunday School for All
- 10:15 am Fellowship Time
- 10:30 am Worship
- 5:30 pm ECHO Youth
- 5:30 pm WAM (Worship and Music)

Tuesday, November 4

- 10:00 am Wellness Class
- 2:00 pm Bible Study
- 2:00 pm Hand in Hand

Wednesday, November 5

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

Thursday, November 6

- 9:30 am Bible Study (Wolfe home)

November 7 - 9

Youth at Pilgrimage

Sunday, November 9

- 9:30 am Sunday School for All
- 10:15 am Fellowship Time
- 10:30 am Worship
- 11:30 am Drive-In Food Drive
- 5:30 pm WAM (Worship and Music)

Monday, November 10 - Cooking Peanuts

Tuesday, November 11

- 10:00 am Wellness Class
- 2:00 pm Bible Study

Wednesday, November 12

- 4:00 pm SPRC Meeting
- 5:30 pm Grace Notes Rehearsal
- 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, November 13

- 9:30 am Bible Study (Wolfe home)

Saturday, November 15

- 10:00 am Women of Winstead

Sunday, November 16

Consecration Sunday

- 9:30 am Sunday School for All
- 10:15 am Fellowship Time
- 10:30 am Worship
- 5:30 pm ECHO Youth
- 5:30 pm WAM (Worship and Music)

Monday, November 17 - Cooking Peanuts

Tuesday, November 18

- 10:00 am Wellness Class
- 2:00 pm Bible Study

Wednesday, November 19

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

Thursday, November 20

- 9:30 am Bible Study (Wolfe home)

Sunday, November 23

- 9:30 am Sunday School for All
- 10:15 am Fellowship Time
- 10:30 am Worship
- 5:30 pm ECHO Youth
- 5:30 pm WAM (Worship and Music)

Tuesday, November 25

Newsletter Deadline

- 10:00 am Wellness Class
- 5:30 pm Grace Notes Rehearsal

Thursday, November 27

Happy Thanksgiving

Office Closed

Friday, November 28 - Office Closed

Sunday, November 30

- 9:30 am Sunday School for All
- 10:15 am Fellowship Time
- 10:30 am Worship - Hanging of the Greens
- 5:30 pm WAM (Worship and Music)



1851 Airport Blvd. W
Wilson, NC 27893

Pastor

Rev. Patrick Murphy

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

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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

5:30 pm ECHO Youth

6:00 pm WAM (Children's Choir)

Pastor: Rev. Patrick Murphy

Email: pmurphy@nccumc.org

Trustees

by Fred Hight, Chair

Thanks to Linda and Larry Lane, Marty Johnson, Dwayne Jones, and others the fire ant problem has temporarily been taken care of. We will never get rid of all the ants, but we will stay on top of the problem as best we can.



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