

# CHAPEL CHATTER



*To all who are lonely and need a friend, to all who are sick and seek Christ's healing power, to all who sin and need a Savior, this church opens wide its doors, and in the name of Christ our Savior, bids you welcome.*

## From Strength to Strength

<sup>1</sup>How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! <sup>2</sup>My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God. <sup>3</sup>Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. <sup>4</sup>Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise. <sup>5</sup>Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion. <sup>6</sup>As they go through the valley of Baca they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools. <sup>7</sup>They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion. <sup>8</sup>O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob! <sup>9</sup>Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed. <sup>10</sup>For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than live in the tents of wickedness. <sup>11</sup>For the Lord God is a sun and shield; he bestows favor and honor. No good thing does the Lord withhold from those who walk uprightly. <sup>12</sup>O Lord of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you. (Psalm 84)

Over the past four years this psalm has been lifted up by our Bishop Hope Morgan Ward. She has inspired our conference to look to the source of our strength and to see the strengths within. We grew together, we shared stories of thriving congregations, we served together, and this year she is calling us to see the strength of God's generosity that calls us to be a generous people.

On August 23 Bishop Hope spoke to the pastors of the Heritage District. She reminded us of 2 Corinthians 9:6-8, *"6 The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work."*

As she spoke of generosity, she asked us to consider the tithe not as the end of our giving but the beginning of our understanding of generosity.

It may be hard to even consider giving a tithe because of our individual financial circumstances. We can look around us and get stuck in the assumption that we are not enough or that we do not have enough to make a difference in this world. When we do that, we buy into the world view of scarcity, that there will never be enough. God is a God of abundance and generosity. I have witnessed that generosity to me throughout the years. I have witnessed it here at Plank Chapel. You are a generous people.

My prayer for us as we set budgets and elect leaders for 2016 is that our hearts and minds are focused on our generous God who does not withhold good things from those who

walk uprightly. Part of the process of preparing for our year in ministry in 2016 is each of us pledging our offering, our tithe. As you make your pledge, this may not be the year you can tithe, but ask yourself this question, "What is my generous response to God?"

Praying with you,  
Pastor Carolyn

## Inward Formation and Outward Witness - a Team Approach

Our life in Christ is formed through our worship, our devotional lives, our study, and our fellowship. As we grow in grace and love, there also grows a longing towards an outward witness to the power of God's love. The love that changed us will change the world.

It is in the church that both our inward formation is fostered and our outward witness is given direction and purpose. This year the Church Council has voted to take a group of committees and combine them to form two teams, one focused on inward formation and the other on outward witness.

The Inward Formation Team will incorporate the tasks of Age Levels and Family, Education, and Worship. The Outward Witness Team will incorporate the tasks of Mission and Ministry and Outreach. These teams will recruit volunteers for various tasks and projects over the course of the year. Our goal was to reduce the number of hours we spent in committee meetings and increase the number of volunteers for the programs and activities generated by the teams.

The Inward Formation Team will coordinate and engage the congregation in: Fellowship Events throughout the year, Christmas program, Sunday School and Bible Studies, Vacation Bible School, Special worship events throughout the year (i.e. Hanging of the Greens, World Communion, etc)

The Outward Witness Team will coordinate and engage the congregation in: visitation and witness teams to keep connected to the community, local mission opportunities, sponsor missionaries, raise funds for missions, explore ways we can be good neighbors, keep us focused on making disciples.

It will be different. It will be challenging. If we are generous in our spirits in the midst of the changes and give of our time and talents, God can take our offering and bless it so that we grow in grace and the community is changed.

The Nominations and Lay Leadership Committee will be placing before the Church Council our 2016 Leadership on September 14. A copy will be available on September 6. All members of the church have a voice at Church Council meetings and we welcome your input in this time of change. Voting is restricted to the Church Council members.

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## BASIC UMYF

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BASIC UMYF meets on Sunday, September 20th. We will have youth council from 4:00 pm until 4:30 pm. At 4:30 we share in worship, fellowship, and fun... could be there may be some cookies, ice cream, and a few games.

Sole Hope was a mission project this year at ACS. Their purpose is to provide close toed shoes for children in Africa. Disease and Jiggers get into the feet of children because they do not have shoes. See [solehope.org](http://solehope.org) for more information.

Pilgrimage ... Pilgrimage ...  
Camp Dixie has confirmed our Pilgrimage spot for this year...we need to know, "Are you going to Pilgrimage?"



Other mission opportunities: Haiti next summer, Community Partners of Hope this winter, and Rebuilding Hope or WARM (mission work in the Wilmington area) when we get a team together!

Cannot wait to hear what you did this summer!

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## Heritage District Superintendent's Visit

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On September 21 at 1:00 p.m. our District Superintendent, Randy Innes will be visiting Plank Chapel. He invites us to join him in a conversation about our life in ministry. He is riding the circuit to meet the people of all the churches of the Heritage District. His prayer is that these visits help him serve the churches better as he comes to know who we are and where God is leading us in ministry. Save the date and come and share our story.

### Community in Prayer

For... Karen Driver, JP and Jean Bowden, Brandi Dickerson, Alice Finch, Hilma Smith, David Driver, Fred Beckham, Faye Young, Frances Fuller, Bryson Jackson, James Rowland, Stephen Bowers, Geneva Hawley, Jane Owen, Gerald Woodlief

For...healing and reconciliation      For...those facing medical procedures      For...those grieving  
 For...those without food, jobs and shelter      For...the lost and afraid      For...Henderson, Vance County  
 For...Plank Chapel, our leaders, our teachers, our volunteers, our children, our youth, our aging  
 For...Our military, families, and veterans      For...all in harms way      For...peace in our nation  
 For...peace in the world

## Faith and Fitness - A Place to Gain Strength

Wednesday nights the Fellowship Hall is filled with laughter and the sounds of contemporary Christian music as Leo Roy puts his students through a 12 station circuit court. He adapts each station based on the fitness of his student. Join us, laugh with us, get fit with us. Sunday evenings the Fellowship Hall is turned into a Yoga studio. Various instructors on DVD's move us through poses under the careful eye of Leo Roy. Come stretch yourself at Yoga, you will have strength with flexibility!



# IN MISSION WITH

## Local Mission Opportunities

### Ruin Creek Animal Rescue Needs:

nonclumping cat litter, blankets, towels, puppy pads, and volunteers. The Shelter is open 8:30-4 most weekdays. Funding for veterinarian visits for abandoned animals in need of care is always needed.

### Greater Ransom Way of the Cross Temple

**Food Pantry:** Open 1st and 3rd Saturdays from 10 am - 12 pm. Volunteers serve from 8 am - 12 pm.

**ACTS:** Open daily, serving mid day meal as well as a having a food pantry available

### Cokesbury UMC Food Pantry:

Open 1st and 3rd Wednesday.

### Community Partners of Hope:

They will soon be gearing up for the winter shelter months of November through March. They are always looking for volunteers to serve as supervisors and for volunteers to

prepare meals. Last year we prepared meals once a month for all 5 months.

## World Mission Opportunities:

### Youth Trip to Haiti

Seeking youth and adult volunteers for a mission trip to Haiti. If interested please contact Pastor Carolyn as soon as possible as the trip is in planning stages through our Heritage District Youth Coordinator.

### Return to Rotifunk

Return to Rotifunk Hospital in Sierra Leone in November 2015. Team member applications are being accepted for two teams: a medical team and a general spiritual/social team focused on building relationships. Teams will be limited to seven persons each. Ask Pastor Carolyn for more information.

### Imagine No Malaria

We have not yet met the goal of \$1,000,000.00 for Imagine No net that costs \$10.00. \$10.00 for

for Malaria. One saves one life Consider giving that one life.



Change to Change the World - September's bucket money goes to Global Refugee and Immigration Response (#982540) UMCOR responds to the initial emergency needs of uprooted people and provides programs through community and/or church-based projects that prepare refugees for a productive, self-sustaining life when they can safely return to their own country or resettle in a new home.

# IN HIS SERVICE

## September Ushers

Mac Wilson, Taylor Abbott  
Freddie McGhee, Ben Brown

## September Altar Guild

Jackie and Ben Brown

## Flowers

6 - Susan Sears  
13 - Communion  
20 - Beverly Thompson  
27 - Lorraine Abbott & Hilma Smith

## Lay Readers

6 - Karin Driver, *Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23*  
13 - Lorraine Abbott, *James 3:1-12*  
20 - Jeanette McGhee, *James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a*  
27 - Taylor Abbott, *James 5:13-20*

## Greeters

6 - Bryant Bobbitt  
13 - Freddie McGhee  
20 - Bruce Newman  
27 - John Rogers

## Nursery Workers

6 - Kim and Laci Oettinger  
13 - Lora Young and Midge Smith  
20 - Judy Eaves and Arianna Fuller-Bell  
27 - Roxie Kearney and Lizzie Driver

## Acolytes

6 - Makayla Beckham  
13 - CT Thompson  
20 - Jasper Denton  
27 - Hannah Pegram

God has called you. He will not fail you.

## Outreach Team

6 - Darlene Ranes and Joyce Edwards  
13 - Faye Woodlief and Judy Wilson  
20 - John and Patricia Rogers  
27 - Joe Weaver and Henry Finch

**Thank you, thank you, thank you!**  
Your generosity so evident in the outpouring of supplies for the school and the food for the food pantries!  
  
Brandi Dickerson is very grateful for the support you have shared in your gifts of prayer, food, and fellowship.

Sing and make music from your hearts to the Lord. Ephesians 5:19

Choir practice is every Wednesday night at 6:30 pm.

Join in the fun as we sing to the Lord and lead the congregation in worship. New voices are always welcome.

Senior Circle  
Wednesday  
September 16  
10 am



4 Seasons Cafe and Gift Shop  
Wednesday  
September 2  
10 am

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30 AM Early Worship</li> <li>10:00 AM Sunday School</li> <li>11:00 AM Worship</li> <li>7:00 PM PPRC</li> </ul>	31	1	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:00 AM 4 Seasons Cafe and Gift Shop</li> <li>5:30 PM Faith and Fitness</li> <li>6:30 PM Choir Practice</li> </ul>	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1:30 PM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study</li> </ul>	4	5
6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30 AM Early Worship</li> <li>10:00 AM Sunday School</li> <li>11:00 AM Worship</li> <li>4:00 PM Youth Council</li> <li>4:30 PM BASIC YOUTH</li> <li>7:00 PM Faith and Fitness</li> </ul>	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:00 PM Trustees</li> </ul>	8	9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5:30 PM Faith and Fitness</li> <li>6:30 PM Choir Practice</li> </ul>	10	11	12
13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30 AM Early Worship</li> <li>10:00 AM Sunday School</li> <li>11:00 AM Worship</li> <li>7:00 PM Faith and Fitness</li> </ul>	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:00 PM Church Council</li> </ul>	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:00 PM Youth Leadership</li> </ul>	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:00 AM Senior Circle</li> <li>5:30 PM Faith and Fitness</li> <li>6:30 PM Choir Practice</li> </ul>	17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1:30 PM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study</li> <li>7:00 PM Kittrell Community Watch</li> </ul>	18	19
20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:00 AM UMM</li> <li>10:00 AM Sunday School</li> <li>11:00 AM Worship</li> <li>3:00 PM UMW</li> <li>4:30 PM BASIC UMYF</li> <li>7:00 PM Faith and Fitness</li> </ul>	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1:00 PM District Superintendent Visit</li> </ul>	22	23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5:30 PM Faith and Fitness</li> <li>6:30 PM Choir Practice</li> </ul>	24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1:30 PM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study</li> </ul>	25	26
27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30 AM Early Worship</li> <li>10:00 AM Sunday School</li> <li>11:00 AM Worship</li> <li>7:00 PM Faith and Fitness</li> </ul>	28	29	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5:30 PM Faith and Fitness</li> <li>6:30 PM Choir Practice</li> </ul>	1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1:30 PM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study</li> </ul>	2	3