

CHAPEL CHATTER

Open Hearts | Open Minds | Wide Open Doors

BASIC UMYF

BASIC UMYF meets the first and third Sunday of most months. Youth from four sister churches gather for fellowship, fun, food, and to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. November meetings will be at Plank Chapel UMC.

UMM

The United Methodist Men of Plank Chapel meet on the third Sunday of each month at 8:00 a.m. After sharing a breakfast together, this group of men focus on ways they can serve the community through their time, talent, and treasure. Join in on this opportunity for fellowship and service.

UMW

The United Methodist Women of Plank Chapel meet at 3:00 pm on the third Sunday of the month. These mission minded women share a program and discuss where they are needed to serve. All women are welcome. Please join us.

God Is With Us

This year's Advent Study begins with these words, "There is hope, people!" Words many of us need to hear and remember. Peace, hope, joy, and love are the four words on our advent wreath. It has been a long season where peace, hope, joy, and love have been shadowed by the world. God has always been with us in the shadows, in the dark, and in the light. God is with us now as we wait.

It is the paradox of our faith that God is with us and God is coming. The word Advent comes from the Latin word that means coming. In our waiting for God to come again, God is with us. It is a paradox that gives me peace in the present age, hope for the future, joy in every circumstance, and allows me to love without conditions.

God is with us and my prayer for us this Advent and Christmas is that we will experience God's presence and redemptive love. Each of you is a work of love created by God. God's desire is that you love God back and share God's love with your neighbor. I have seen that love and that sharing this year.

In this issue of the Chapel Chatter, I have attempted to capture a picture of your loving spirit. I know I have missed people and groups who have been witnesses to the community of God's love. I ask your forgiveness for failing to remember you on paper. Know each act of love has been lifted to our Lord in praise and celebration. God is with us, thanks be to God. God is coming, our task is to prepare the way for the coming of the Lord!

Leo, Wesley, and I invite you to come and celebrate with us on December 22nd. Our doors will be open from 3:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. It is our gift of hospitality and gratitude for your gift to us for opening your hearts and homes that we may serve together.

Praying with you,

Pastor Carolyn

Isaiah 2:3 "Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come let us go to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.'"

Trustees



The Trustees have been working hard this past year:

- ◆ Safe Sanctuary Policy has been updated and posted on website
- ◆ Silver Cooler Repaired
- ◆ Playground equipment removed
- ◆ New LED troffers with dimmers in Fellowship Hall and electrical repairs in both buildings completed
- ◆ Landscaping project completed
- ◆ Moisture barrier has been placed under the parsonage with air inducer to prevent further buildup
- ◆ Storage room in Fellowship hall has been established
- ◆ Molding in rear of sanctuary has been replaced
- ◆ Fire extinguishers have been updated and inspected - 2016
- ◆ Front doors to sanctuary have been sealed
- ◆ Fluorescent lights in Heritage room cabinets
- ◆ Sump pump replacement under sanctuary
- ◆ Floor repair for parsonage
- ◆ Shortening of the rear left pew
- ◆ Kitchen Floor at Parsonage has been replaced
- ◆ Mulch distributed
- ◆ Facilities use policy has been updated and posted on website
- ◆ A&S has come out and placed traps for mice/rats as well as sprayed.
- ◆ Spring cleaning April 2016

Our Inward Formation evidence through our Outward Witness

This year has been a season of growth that has produced changes within and moved us out into the community. We spent our Lenten season in the garden and as we grew we planted seeds in the earth to share our plenty with our community. Fresh vegetables from the bounty of our fields went to our neighbors and friends as well as Greater Ransom Way of the Cross Temple and Cokesbury UMC Food Pantries. Seeds sown from the Shift Bible Study sent out volunteers to tutor at City Road UMC, to serve as a greeters at the Men's Homeless Shelter, organize a community Christmas Dinner, and to bring food to Fisher House.

In our worship we have given supplies to Zeb Vance Elementary School. Our United Methodist Women's partnership with this school has also included a welcome lunch for the teachers and volunteers in classrooms. The women continue to support the teachers with bags of gratitude across the holidays. As they meet and speak of the needs of women and children in our community, they have been generous in their support of families who are in need and they surround them with love and care.

Our United Methodist Men have answered the call to care for the community. Their handicap ramp is once again in use serving a family in need. They have supported the growth of our youth program with their time, talent and treasure. Their BBQ proceeds generously supported Rebuilding Hope. These breakfast cooking men are quick to give to family, friends, and strangers when the need is brought before them.

The first Wednesday gathering of women we know as Four Seasons Cafe and Gift Shop have given their time and talent to create gifts for children and veterans as well as traveling to visit the shut-ins in the community. On Thanksgiving Day a young Army soldier suffering from a traumatic brain injury and all of its complications received his Army blanket at Fisher House.

Senior Circle was established to be a fellowship for the community of retired men and women. This group continues to support their community through financial gifts and prayers.

Their programming provides the community with needed information on topics specific to the senior population that attends. Not all programs are educational. These seniors also know that music, games, food, and laughter are needed for the wellbeing of their bodies and souls.

Faith and Fitness is this little ministry of physical wellbeing. The 12 circuit course works on agility and balance while meeting that 30 minutes of continuous activity that is good for our bodies. From this workout we have seen balance improved and pain reduced. This ministry cares for the body so that we can do the work before us. Join them.

Thursday night crafters provide create works of art to be shared

Our Sunday School hour our worship opportunities Study continues in Keeping into God’s word and it discipline that empowers us

Our gift of our treasures those close to home. We members within our church Community Partners of Hope, Kerr Red Bird Missionary Conference, Eastern North Carolina, Stop Hunger Now, Methodist Retirement Homes, Methodist Home for Children, Alzheimers of North Carolina, Gideons, our United Methodist special offerings, and reached further through our conference apportionments.



space and community for people of all ages to within our community as gifts of grace.

continues to bring spiritual growth and create a variety of ways to praise God. Holy Time Bible Study as we reach deep transforms our lives. It is a spiritual to go out and serve.

have gone far and wide and also reached have provided financial support to family family, ACTS, Rebuilding Hope, Lake Ministries, UMCOR Disaster Response, Missionary Gary Locklear, Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina, Stop Hunger Now, Methodist Retirement Homes, Methodist Home for Children, Alzheimers of North Carolina, Gideons, our United Methodist special offerings, and reached further through our conference apportionments.

We had two community events this year organized by our Outward Witness Team and our Inward Formation Team. We had a Community Fun Day in the Spring and a Fall Festival. Each event offered an opportunity to reach out in welcoming hospitality. As we look forward, what will be next steps?

Take time to look back across this year and see where God has used Plank Chapel to be a light in the darkness. Then turn towards our future and see where God is calling us...God is with us, thanks be to God!

UMCOR Disaster Response - #901670

UMCOR responds to natural or civil disasters of such magnitude that they overwhelm a community’s ability to recover on its own. Through UMCOR, United Methodists extend loving care to people within the United States, as well as internationally: in Africa, Asia, Central and South America, and the Caribbean. These beneficiaries are seen as partners, not victims, and UMCOR works to empower them. Wherever possible, UMCOR cooperates with other aid organizations to extend its reach.



Our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day offerings will go to: S00176 – NC Storm Emergency Response

BASIC UMYF



December 4 BASIC meets at Rehoboth UMC. There may even be a Mannequin Challenge - our theme will be grace. What does that look like to you?

This Advent take some time to add to your devotional practices by journaling where you see "God is with us" in your daily activities. How will you celebrate the gift of volunteer leaders this Christmas?

Christmas Celebration as a group is tentatively scheduled on December 17. Final plans will be put together on December 4.

Coming in January and February: Painting Lock-in, Soup-er Bowl Fundraiser for Stop Hunger Now, Stop Hunger Now Food Packaging, Steak Dinner and Cake Auction Fundraiser. Pray-Play-Purpose all a part of our life of faith!

Confirmation Classes

Pastor Lee and Pastor Carolyn are discussing the possibility of a joint confirmation class. Let Pastor Carolyn know if you are interested in being confirmed. Schedule will be coming out soon!

SHIFT Study

A small group of brother and sisters have been meeting to pray over and work through what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. We are moving to monthly meetings beginning in January. Our study book is Disunity in Christ: Uncovering the Hidden Forces that Keep Us Apart by Christena Cleveland. We will meet on January 8 at 4:30 p.m. All are welcome to join us. If you would like a copy of the book, let Pastor Carolyn know.



Christmas Mail

The Chapel Chatter Post Office is open. Place your cards and letters to one another in the boxes to share your messages of love and thanksgiving for one another. Some of our church family may need their cards mailed out as they are unable to come in and receive their cards! Check your box as the Post Office closes after the New Year!!!!



IN HIS SERVICE



December Ushers

Henry Finch, Mac Wilson
Jasper Denton, Scott Ritchey

December Altar Guild

Faye Woodlief

December Greeters

Lori and Mark Litton

Flowers

- 4 - Wilsons and Poinsettias
- 11 - Poinsettias
- 18 - Poinsettias
- 25 - Poinsettias



Acolytes

- 4 - Hannah Pegram
- 11 - Laci Oettinger
- 18 - Chase Thompson
- 25 - Lacie Oettinger

Lay Readers

- 4 - Karin Driver - Isaiah 11:1-10
- 11 - Tim Smith - Matthew 11:2-11
- 18 - Darlene Raney - Romans 1:17
- 25 - Avery Thomas - Hebrews 1:1-12

Nursery Workers

- 4 - Kim and Laci Oettinger
- 11 - Lora Young and Midge Smith
- 18 - Joyce Edwards and Laci Oettinger
- 25 - Roxie Kearney and Lizzie Driver

Special Events this Season

- December 13 6:30 p.m. Community Christmas Dinner
- December 18 9:00 a.m. Pancake Breakfast cooked by our UMM
- December 18 11:00 a.m. Music filled Worship
- December 24 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion
- December 25 10:30 a.m. Celebrating the birth of Christ through scripture and song
- December 27 6:00 p.m. Men's Shelter Meal
- December 31 7:00 p.m. Watch Night Worship as we prepare to enter into a new year

Community in Prayer

- For... Stanley Wilson, Jr., Skeeter Pearce, Tilly Hughes, Jamie Kearney, Kay House, Faye Young, Brandi Dickerson, Alice Finch, David Driver, Frances Fuller, Jane Owen, George Heaton
- For...healing and reconciliation
- For...those facing medical procedures
- For...those grieving
- For...those without food, jobs, shelter
- For...the lost and afraid
- For...Our local cities and counties
- For...Plank Chapel
- For...Our military, families, and veterans
- For...all in harms way
- For...peace in our nation
- For...peace in the world

Keeping Holy Time Bible Study begins with Matthew



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28		29	30	1	2	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 AM Early Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 6:30 PM Advent Study - God With US 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30 PM Faith and Fitness 6:30 PM Choir Practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:30 PM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study 		
<div style="background-color: #8ebf4d; color: white; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> Food Pantry Dec 4 Dec 18 </div>						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 AM Early Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 4:00 PM Youth Council 4:30 PM BASIC YOUTH 6:30 PM Advent Study - God With US 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM 4 Seasons Cafe and Gift Shop 5:30 PM Faith and Fitness 6:30 PM Choir Practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:30 PM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study 6:00 PM Thursday Night Crafters 		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 AM Early Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 3:00 PM UMW 6:30 PM Advent Study - God With US 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30 PM Faith and Fitness 6:30 PM Choir Practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:30 PM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:00 PM Willing Workers Steak Dinner <p style="text-align: center;">BASIC Christmas Party</p>
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 AM UMM 9:00 AM Pancake Breakfast 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 4:30 PM BASIC UMYF 6:30 PM Advent Study - God With US 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Senior Circle 5:30 PM Faith and Fitness 6:30 PM Choir Practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:30 PM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study <p>Open House at the Parsonage 3:30 pm - 7:00 pm</p>		<p style="background-color: #d9ead3; padding: 5px;">Christmas Eve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 PM Christmas Eve Communion
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
<p style="background-color: #d9ead3; padding: 5px;">Christmas Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30 a.m. Worship 	<p style="background-color: #d9ead3; padding: 5px;">Christmas Day observed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00 PM Men's Shelter Meals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30 PM Faith and Fitness 6:30 PM Choir Practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:30 PM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study 		<p style="background-color: #d9ead3; padding: 5px;">New Year's Eve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Watch night