

# CHAPEL CHATTER

Open Hearts | Open Minds | Wide Open Doors!

## Methodist Men

Meet on the third Sunday of the month at 8:00 a.m. for fellowship, breakfast, and seek opportunities for mission work in the community.

## Methodist Women

Meet on the third Sunday of the month at 3:00 p.m. The meetings include a program and missional planning for the months ahead. Zeb Vance Elementary School is one of their mission fields.

## Senior Circle

Meets on the third Wednesday of the month. The meetings include a program and a light lunch. Any community member over 50 years of age is welcome at Senior Circle.

## BASIC UMYF

Meet weekly at 4:00 p.m. and location changes each month. BASIC stands for Brothers And Sisters In Christ and youth from Rehoboth UMC and Plank Chapel UMC gather to grow in discipleship.



## Dinner and Dialog

The first dinner and dialog brought to light the hopes and concerns for our future but the group felt that voices were left out. On January 7, we will once again sit around tables at a simple meal and share in conversations about our faith and our future. Each table will have a question or two to guide the discussion. At dessert we will open the floor to hear from each table. Other tables will have the opportunity to add to the topic before us. You may be asked to sit at a different table than you planned as the goal is to have all ages represented at each table. God has a plan and a purpose for Plank Chapel United Methodist Church, but God cannot accomplish that plan without our cooperation. Your voice is important in the conversation, sign up - we want to be sure we have enough to eat and hear from you.

Praying with you that we allow joy, allow love, allow God to show us our future,

Pastor Carolyn



## Heritage District 1st Home - Fenton Patton

Fenton Patton resides in Tarboro NC. Fenton's house was damaged by Hurricane Matthew. He lost everything. He is a proud father of two, both currently in the Air Force. Fenton had neither flood insurance nor the finances for rebuild. Currently being out of work and living from hotel to hotel made it harder to pull together and look for assistance and having to still pay bills at the flooded address if he wanted to keep his place. Having hope that one day he will get back into where his family call home made him not give up. Fenton applied for assistance in Tarboro at the NCCUMDR Center asking for help. After all the paper work Construction Manager view the damages and estimated a total amount of \$14,500 for rebuild. Water actually came in the house so things like his floor and wall insulation, walls doors, toilets, vanities, sinks, cabinets, flooring, repair brick foundation etc. All these things have to be repaired and replaced.

[Facebook.com/PlankChapelUMC](https://www.facebook.com/PlankChapelUMC)

## Red Cross Blood Drive

Jasper Denton, seen here giving blood (ask him why his arm was purple - he will explain), asked us to support his senior project which was a blood drive. What a day it was at Plank Chapel UMC, youth, adults, friends, coworkers, and church family came to give blood so that others might have a chance for life. Thank you for all your support and for giving of your time and life giving blood. See December pictures in review for our first time donor group! You are never too old to give for the first time.



## Winter Weather Advisory

Winter weather can be unpredictable and challenging. If conditions call for us to cancel our Sunday worship schedule, we will get word out through Facebook, email, and the phone tree. Pastor Carolyn calls Faye Woodlief who begins making calls. If you feel unsafe traveling that Sunday, please stay home. If you are wondering, please call 252-438-6080 and ask.

[PlankChapel.org](http://PlankChapel.org)

## Generosity in All Places

November 29th I received an email from Will Hoyle a chaplain at the federal prison in Butner:

*Hello Plank Chapel,*

*I just heard the feature about your church on His Radio. I cannot tell you how much it touched my heart and how proud I am of the work you are doing for Jesus! I am a fellow Methodist living in Kittrell. Whenever I tell people my address in Kittrell they look at me like I am from Egypt and ask, "Where is that!?" I thought I was in exile or something! But as a Methodist pastor, I sometimes feel that way since I don't pastor a church any more. I work as a chaplain at the federal prison in Butner. That radio spot on your Marathon fund raiser and the recovery of a homeless Christian just blessed my soul so much today. I am so glad to know what you are doing for Christ.*

*I am so proud to be your neighbor!*

*In Christian love  
Chaplain Will Hoyle  
4014 Angel Oaks Ln  
Kittrell, NC*

God reached out through Plank Chapel in numerous ways in 2017. We had youth packaging food for Rise Against Hunger (formerly Stop Hunger Now). Two went to Enfield and served in mission work for a week helping to rebuild and create safe and warm homes for those in need. Our United Methodist Women cooked for the teachers of Zeb Vance Elementary School as well as provided them with special words of encouragement and treats throughout the year. As a church we collected school supplies for Zeb Vance and food for Cokesbury's Food Pantry. Every first and third Tuesday a van from Plank Chapel heads to the Durham Food Bank to assist in the pick up of food for Cokesbury's Wednesday's Food Pantry Day. We have prepared and delivered food to Community Partner's of Hope Men's Shelter and two or more of our members have served shifts at the homeless shelter. Over the year we have visited the sick and the shut in and have provided meals where they are needed and our Hospitality Committee has arranged receptions for those grieving the loss of loved ones.

We have organized and walked for Alzheimer's research and support for three years and 2018 we will walk again. We have organized the first 5k run/walk for Community Partners

of Hope and A Dash of Hope was a successful fundraiser for the shelter. Our United Methodist Men have supported both walk efforts, our students entering college, members in the community in need of assistance, making crafts for Kerr Lake Ministries, and continue to find families who need their portable handicapped ramp. During the summer volunteers headed to Kerr Lake for a very hot week of summer camp teaching children about Jesus.

I know I have left out other places we have served or volunteered this past year because I have learned that the people of Plank Chapel respond generously where God's light shines on the needs before them, even if it means feeding abandoned cats during rain storms, or extending your arm for the Red Cross volunteer to take your blood. Often the story of service goes untold but never unnoticed by God.

One of the things I have learned about mission and ministry is that they rise or fall depending on their funding sources. Your generous giving this year has allowed many of the ministries you physically support to thrive.

You have given to (take a long breath) Kerr Lake Ministries, Community Partners of Hope, ACTS, Gideons, ALZNC, Methodist Home for Children, Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina, Methodist Retirement Homes, North Carolina Missionary Charles Barrow, Disciple Bible Outreach Ministry, Robeson County Church and Community Center, UMCOR both US and International and this Christmas Eve have given to Heritage District Christmas fund to rebuild two homes of victims of Hurricane Matthew. Your generosity included full payment of missional giving to the United Methodist Church through the North Carolina Conference, special Sunday offerings, budgeted giving to Kerr Lake and ACTS as well as close to \$12,000.00 in giving to local and global ministries. God's work in the world is fueled by generous givers. Your giving is a witness to the transforming power of God's love in personal lives and in the world. So grateful for your open hearts and willing spirits.

A note from our Treasurer about missional giving. Every dollar we give either locally or through the United Methodist Church is factored into our apportioned giving for the next year. Consider when you give to give through Plank Chapel, designating those funds to the missional giving or charity of your choice.

# Formational Opportunities

## *Church School*

Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. classes are held in the Education wing of the Fellowship Hall. Currently we have teachers for elementary and middle school children waiting for their classrooms to fill. Our adults have seasonal themes in their Adult Bible Studies. The winter theme is: Faith in Action. Our church school is open to all who seek to grow in faith and if a particular subject is of interest to a small group, we can create a class on that subject.

## *SHIFT Small Group Missional Study*

In the January meeting (Jan 14 @ 5:30 p.m. the group will decide on the study book for the winter/spring as well as missional opportunities and projects. This group is open to all who are seeking a place to study and grow as disciples. Research the following books for the January 14 meeting: Welcoming Community: Diversity that Works by Douglas Avilesbernal, Sabbath as Resistance: Saying NO to the CULTURE OF NOW by Walter Brueggemann, or Coming Together Around What Matters Most: A Six-week Devotional Journey by Thomas J. Bickerton. We can either select one or all and create an order for reading them. Other options are open if you bring them to the meeting.

## *Lenten Six Week Study*

Five Means of Grace by Elaine Heath will be offered on Monday nights during Lent beginning February 19. Sign up sheets will be in the Fellowship Hall during the month of January and books will be available on Ash Wednesday, February 14.

## *Keeping Holy Time Bible Study*

On Thursday, January 18 at 10:00 a.m. the study will resume. We are currently working through the letters to Timothy and Titus. If you have a study Bible or a favorite translation, bring your Bible with you to class. We explore the scriptures and share in the needs of the community. Our only text is the Bible and each week, new facets of our faith are explored. It is never too late to study the Bible and studying together, we grow! Join us!

## *Eating Together - A Summer Study Plan*

In January Pastor Carolyn leaves for the leadership training on a new curriculum called "Eating Together". This curriculum requires a minimum of 10 participants from the church and around the community. The goals for the curriculum are: to build communities of friendship and belonging around the themes of food and faith by eating together regularly in community; to spark scriptural imagination through Bible study and shared reflections; to introduce selected exceptional resources and leaders in the Christian food movement to participants; to strengthen the relationship between the Lord's Table and our daily tables; and to develop an ecological spirituality grounded in the convictions of our faith. The plan is to begin the curriculum around harvest time. More information will be provided after the January training.

## **Souper Bowl Sunday**

**February 4**

**After Worship**

**"Rise Against Hunger"**

**Fundraiser**

**Goal: \$500**

## Flowers

- 7 - Communion  
 14 - Patricia Rogers  
 21 - Gwen Ritchey  
 28 - Darlene Ranes

## Altar Guild

Darlene and Mike Ranes

## Ushers & Greeters

**Ushers:** Bruce Newman,  
 Mac Wilson, Matthew Denton,  
 CT Thompson

**Greeter:** Avery Thomas

## Acolytes

- 7 - Matthew Denton  
 14 - Chase Thompson  
 21 - Austyn Abbott  
 28 - Laci Oettinger

## Lay Readers

- 7 - Donald Rose McGhee  
 Genesis 1:1-5  
 14 - Pat Edwards  
 John 1:43-51  
 21 - Avery Thomas  
 Jonah 3:1-5,10  
 28 - Mike Ranes  
 Mark 1:21-28

## Nursery Workers

- 7 - Kim and Laci Oettinger  
 14 - Lora Young and Midge  
 Smith  
 21 - Joyce Edwards and Laci  
 Oettinger  
 28 - Roxie Kearney and Karin  
 Driver

# BASIC UMYF

Winter break ends on January 14. If you are a youth in grades 6-12 (or a “super senior”), join us. January meetings will be held at Rehoboth UMC from 4 pm - 5:30 pm. Each meeting includes worship, small group conversations and time of fellowship and planning.

Special Events coming this winter include:

Souper Bowl Sunday, our fundraiser for the Heritage District’s Rise Against Hunger Food Packaging event on February 10 at North Carolina Wesleyan College

Our annual Steak Dinner and Cake Auction. The possible date for this Fundraiser is February 17 and the alternative date is March 17.

### 2017-2018 Youth Events

**Global Vision:** March 6-11, 2018 Cost \$555, Washington DC & NYC - High School grades 10-12

**Kaleidoscope:** April 13-15, 2018 Cost \$100, Don Lee Center, Arapahoe - Middle School only

**Appalachian Trail Hike:** June 18-24, 2018 Cost \$200  
**Breakaway:** June 25-30, 2018 Cost \$255, NC Wesleyan College, Rocky Mount

**ACS:** July 23-28, 2018 Cost \$255, Methodist University, Fayetteville - High School only

**Pilgrimage:** November 9-11, 2018, Crown Coliseum, Fayetteville

If interested in any of these events - ask Pastor Carolyn or go to <https://nccumc.org/youth/> to find out more information. Please keep in mind that there is YSF (Youth Service Fund) scholarship money available: [2018 Funding Assistance](#)

### Other Opportunities for Youth Involvement

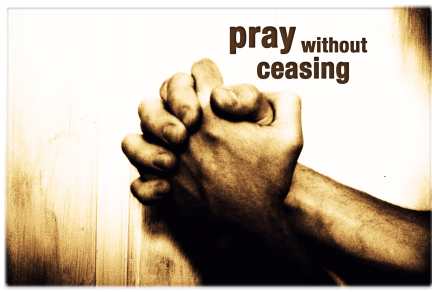
**Duke Youth Academy** provides opportunity for a class through worship, study, play, and service with Duke Divinity School faculty.

**Leader-in-Training** at Camp Don Lee offers a four-week intensive leadership development program for older youth.

**NC Wesleyan College Youth Theological Institute** is a transformational experience that provides time, place and tools to discern God’s calling upon your life.

**Pfeiffer Youth Theological Institute a/k/a YeTI** is a two week summer experience for rising high school sophomores, juniors and seniors who want to lead, who want to serve, who want to learn more about God’s call on their lives.

In our January meetings we will be making plans for some missional work this spring and summer. Bring your ideas and calendars! See you at Rehoboth on the 14th!



## Community Prayers

For... Jackie Brown, Kim Yates, Joe Weaver, Ruth Hailey, Hattie Ranes, Tilly Hughes, Dave Driver, Kay House, Skeeter Pearce, Jane Owen, Faye Young, Jamie Kearney, Brandi Dickerson, Alice Finch, David Driver, 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...Plank Chapel

For ...God's church

For...Our local cities and counties

For...Our military, families, and veterans

For...all in harms way

For...peace in our nation

For...peace in the world

## United Methodist Men

Join us on January 21 at 8:00 a.m. for a hearty breakfast and conversation around our mission focus for the coming year. We welcome our young men and our older men into this fellowship. Always looking for places to serve, always looking for me to serve beside us!

## United Methodist Women

January we lead worship in the service of Prayer and Self Denial and will not hold our normal meeting - join us in February. Women of all ages are welcome into this fellowship.

## Fellowship Opportunities

Wednesdays are days of fellowship for our senior community. On the first Wednesday of the month, the Gathering Place is open from 10 am - 12 pm. We talk, play games, and seek opportunities to serve the community. The third Wednesday is Senior Circle Day - 10 am - 12 pm - we have a program and a light lunch - join us and share in the fellowship!

Planning Retreat

January 13

9 am - 12 noon

**all are welcome**



Planning activities  
missional efforts  
fundraisers  
for 2018

**lunch provided!**



**December  
2017  
In  
Review**

# January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 <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 Watch Night Service</li> </ul>	1 	2	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:00 AM The Gathering Place</li> </ul>	4	5	6
7 <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>6:00 PM Dinner and Dialog</li> </ul>	8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:00 PM Inward Formation Team</li> </ul>	9	10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5:30 PM Faith and Fitness</li> <li>6:30 PM Choir Practice</li> </ul>	11	12	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:00 AM Planning Retreat</li> </ul>
14 <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 BASIC Youth</li> <li>5:30 PM Shift Study Group</li> <li>6:30 PM Outward Witness</li> </ul>	15 <p>6:30 PM PPRC</p> 	16	17 <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>	18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:00 AM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study</li> <li>6:00 PM Kittrell Community Watch</li> </ul>	19	20
21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:00 AM UMM</li> <li>8:30 AM Early Worship</li> <li>10:00 AM Sunday School</li> <li>11:00 AM Worship</li> <li>3:00 PM Worship committee</li> <li>4:00 PM BASIC Youth</li> </ul>	22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30 PM KLM Meeting</li> <li>7:00 PM Trustees Meeting</li> </ul>	23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:00 PM CPOH Dinner</li> </ul>	24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5:30 PM Faith and Fitness</li> <li>6:30 PM Choir Practice</li> </ul>	25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:00 AM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study</li> </ul>	26	27
28 <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 BASIC Youth</li> </ul>	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:00 PM Finance Committee</li> </ul>	30	31 <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>10:00 AM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study</li> </ul>	2	3

<p><b>Meetings on the Calendar</b></p> <p>7th - 6:00 pm - Dinner and Dialog</p> <p>8th - 7:00 pm - Inward Formation</p> <p>13th - 9:00 am - Planning Retreat</p> <p>14th - 6:30 pm - Outward Witness</p>	<p><b>See you there!</b></p> <p>15th - 6:30 pm - PPRC</p> <p>21st - 3:00 pm - Worship Cmte</p> <p>22nd - 7:00 pm - Trustees</p> <p>29th - 7:00 pm - Finance Cmte</p>
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