

CHAPEL CHATTER

To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ and Impact the Community Through Faith and Action



Pastor's Note

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Every spring, Christians around the world gather to celebrate a moment that changed everything—the resurrection of Jesus Christ. As Christians, Easter Sunday is the heart of our faith, a declaration that Christ conquered the grave, and has triumphed over sin and death. As United Methodists, Easter isn't just a one-day celebration. Rather, Easter is a season, a story, a journey. It is an ongoing reality that takes place in everyday life. As one theologian says, "Easter is something we live and breathe." That is why Easter season is the "Great Fifty Days" that begins at sunset on Easter Eve and ends with Pentecost—the day we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church recorded in Acts 2.

Easter isn't just something we celebrate; it's something "we live into." Through it, we are continually being made new. As Revelation 21:5 promises: "*Behold, I am making all things new.*" As Easter people, God is reminding us that nothing is too broken for God to redeem. We live in a world filled with suffering, injustice, and grief. But Easter doesn't ignore those things. In fact, Jesus goes right through it because the empty tomb tells us that evil does not have the final word. The worst thing is never the last thing! Christ's resurrection is a protest against despair and hopelessness and a promise that love wins. To be an Easter people means living with hope even in hardship, joy even in uncertainty, and love even when the world feels cruel.

Therefore, Easter is something "we live into" and we are called to live it out in a broken and messy world. As the Resurrected Jesus told Mary in the garden: "Go to my brothers and tell them..." (John 20:17). We are sent people. The resurrection power sends us out to feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, care for the sick, and speak life in places of pain, suffering and death. In a sense, Easter becomes more than a moment—it becomes a movement.

And so, how are we living out Easter? Where do we see the presence of Christ's resurrection most evident in our lives and in the life of His church? We are living out Easter whenever we hear people coming to Jesus and growing as disciples. We are living out Easter whenever we witness forgiveness, healing, renewal and restoration. We are living out Easter whenever the church is coming together for worship, prayer, witness and service. We are living out Easter in the "Dinner Church" that meets once a month and welcomes everyone for a meal, fellowship and conversation around faith. We are also living out Easter in "Journey" – welcoming diverse children and youth for God's story, crafts, games, food and team-building, as well as "The Gathering" that meets as a hub of the community and offers a place to belong for prayer, inspirational talk, meal and fellowship around the table.

This month of May, I suggest a few meaningful and practical ways to live out Easter. First, attend and bring someone to the Kittrell Revival 2026. This year, we are not meeting under one tent as each year prior but, instead, hosted by one of the local churches each night, 7:00pm on May 3rd-5th and 7th. Second, come join the Kittrell Revival Mission Project on Saturday, May 16th from 9:30am-11:00am @ Plank Chapel UMC Fellowship Hall. This is the first time we are doing this initiative involving various churches who will come together and assemble mission boxes to be distributed to those struggling and vulnerable people in our local community. Third, pray and support the Miracle Sunday Initiative—a global initiative that will extend the vision of The United Methodist Church and help raise up to 500 new pastors across Africa, Europe, and the Philippines. And finally, come join the next Building Bridges Event on May 30th at Plank Chapel UMC led by Tri-County Cooperative Communities on Mission and in partnership with Faith Matters Network.

Indeed, the good news is that we don't need to stop celebrating Easter after the holiday is over. We can celebrate the wonder of Easter every day – not just on Easter Sunday. The wonder that Easter sparks in our souls is something we can enjoy each day of our lives. When we do, we'll experience the joy that comes from connecting with God's presence in our lives day by day. So let the lilies bloom, the songs ring out, and the alleluias return. The tomb is empty, and we are not alone. Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

STRONGER TOGETHER" **EXERCISE CLASS**

"Stronger Together" Exercise Class meets every Monday & Thursday @ 6:00-7:00pm. Open to everyone. For more information, please contact Debra Newman @ 252-915-7005.

PLANK CHAPEL UMC **CHOIR**

The Choir is getting ready for Lenten season! Choir Practice is every Wednesday, 7:00pm. If you are musically inclined and willing to offer your gifts and talents, we would love to have you join the choir! Please contact Janet Bobbitt if you are interested.

NEW BOOK CLUB

Plank Chapel UMC is birthing a New Book Club. We meet every third Sunday of the month. Our next meeting will be on May 17th, 4:15pm in the Fellowship Hall. We are studying together the "Twelve Extraordinary Women" by Rev. John MacArthur. All who are interested are welcome to join.

Plank Chapel UMC Directory

Previously, Plank Chapel published a church directory of members and church friends which was updated every few years. The last update was well over five years ago. Donald Rose McGhee and Pat Edwards led these efforts in a tedious and time consuming process using a typewriter to build the directory.

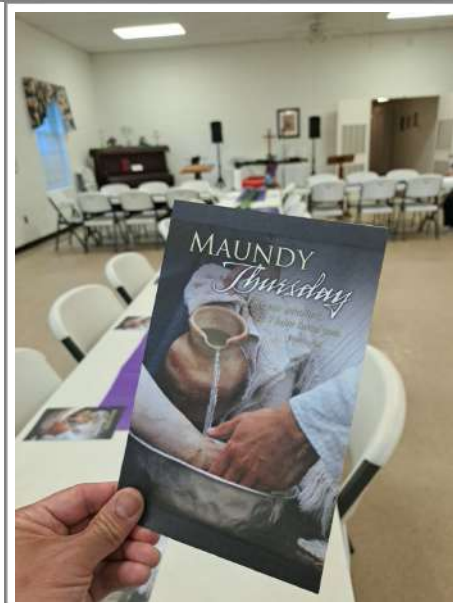
In 2024, Scott Ritchey joined the effort to help by automating the process. We requested all members and others associated with our church to provide updated information for a new church directory. The effort stalled because we only received updates from half of the people in the previous directory. This is a last attempt to solicit updates before publishing the new church directory.

If you want to know if we have your updated information go to <https://ritcheyvs.com/Update.htm> . That page lists the updates we received and when we received them. If you are not on that list, we didn't receive updated information on you.

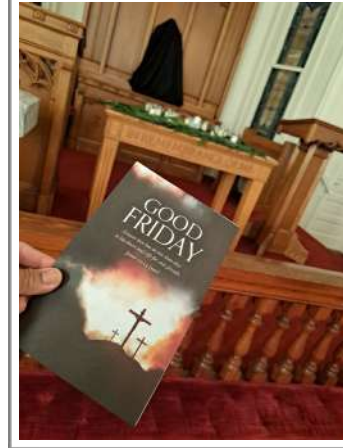
If you wish to submit updated information, go to https://plankchapel.ddns.net/Directory_Form.html. You can print a paper copy and fill in the blanks or copy and paste the form into an email or text and send it to Scott Ritchey: email (ritcheyvs@nc.rr.com) or text (292-915-0294) You can deliver paper forms to Scott or if more convenient, you can leave a paper forms in the Treasurer mail slot at church. The final deadline to submit is on or before May 17th. We will distribute the new church directory by the first week of June.



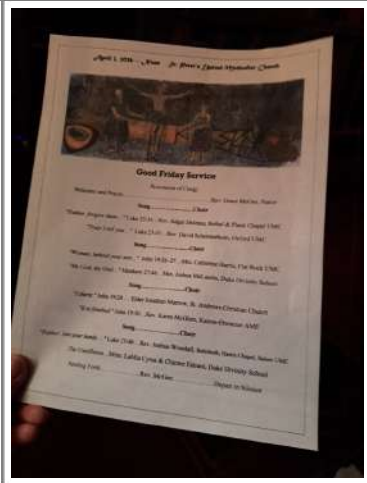
Maundy Thursday



Plank Chapel Good Friday Service



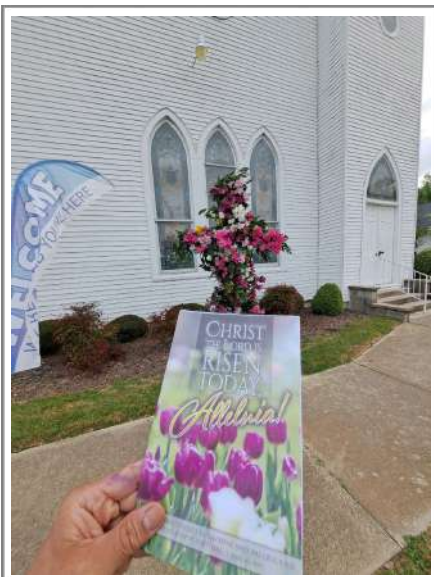
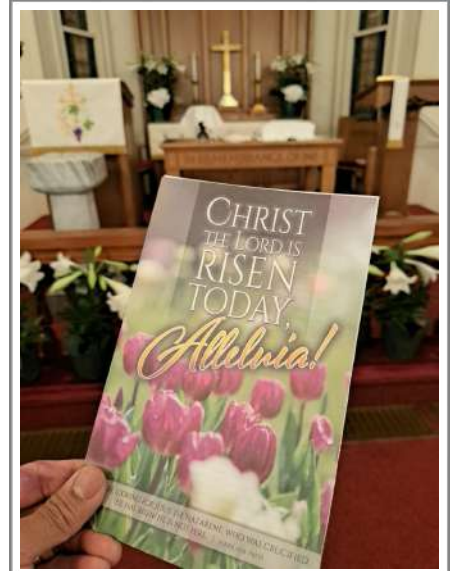
Good Friday Service w/ Area Churches



Easter Sunrise & Flowering of the Easter Cross



Easter Sunday Worship Celebration & Pancake Breakfast Fellowship



Easter Sunday Worship Celebration & Pancake Breakfast Fellowship





FROM THE TENT TO THE CHURCHES

KITTRELL REVIVAL

2026

| | |
|--|--|
| MAY 3-5 & 7 | 7 PM NIGHTLY |
| Sunday, May 3 Kittrell First Missionary Baptist Church 1380 N. CHAVIS RD. | Monday, May 4 Union Chapel Church 6535 RALEIGH RD. |
| Tuesday, May 5 Revive Church of God 200 N. WILLIAMS ST. | Thursday, May 7 Kittrell Baptist Church 200 N. WILLIAMS ST. |

KITTRELLREVIVAL.COM

2026 Revival update posted 4/13/2026: “Preparations are well underway for this years REVIVAL with one change: we will not be under one tent as each year prior but, instead, hosted by one of the local churches each night. Come ready to worship as one community, one big family, together in Christ!”



**Come join us! Let us put our faith into action
as one community, together in Christ!**

Kittrell Revival Mission Project

**Participating Churches:
Kittrell First Missionary Baptist Church, Union Chapel
Church, Revive Church of God, Kittrell Baptist Church
& Plank Chapel United Methodist Church**

**Saturday, 9:30am-11:00am
16 May 2026**

**Plank Chapel United Methodist Church
3047 Bobbitt Road, Kittrell, NC 27544
kittrellrevival.com**

**Tri-County Cooperative Communities on Mission
in partnership with Faith Matters Network invites you...**



Resource Leaders:

**Rev. Donna Banks, Lead Pastor of Epworth UMC Durham
Rev. Sung Min Moy, UM Pastor & Licensed Clinical Social Worker**

**Saturday, 9:30am-1:00pm May 30, 2026
Plank Chapel United Methodist Church
3047 Bobbitt Road, Kittrell, NC 27544**

**9:00am Gathering Time & Light Refreshments
12noon Lunch will be served by Chef Netta
of Spring Forest & Netta's Pantry**

PROJECT BE A BLESSING

"Project Be A Blessing" is a new outreach ministry of Plank Chapel UMC with the main goal of being the hands and feet of Christ to foster children in the community and church members who are in nursing homes and homebound. Currently, there are more than 10,000 children and teenagers in the foster care system in North Carolina. We highlighted "Project Be A Blessing" during "The Gathering" on May 2nd and distributed love gifts to all mothers. To support this ministry, please make your check payable to Plank Chapel UMC and note: "Project Be A Blessing". For more info, please contact Peggy Hernandez (Lay Leader) @ (252) 204-3045.

CHANGE BUCKET

Change Bucket for May 2026 has been designated for Hinton Rural Center (#731372)-- a retreat and mission outreach agency of the Southeastern Jurisdiction that offers lodging and conference facilities for personal and family renewal and group retreats. Hinton also serves the community with the support of mission teams and local volunteers through its Safe & Healthy Home Repair and firewood ministries. For more information, please contact info@hintoncenter.org or visit its website: hintoncenter.org.



This Easter season, Bethel UMC & Plank Chapel UMC are joining with the North Carolina Conference and the worldwide United Methodist Church in launching the Miracle Sunday Initiative-- a global initiative that will extend the vision of The United Methodist Church and help raise up to 500 new pastors across Africa, Europe, and the Philippines. For more information, please go to: <https://nccumc.org/miracle/>.

Through this effort, we seek to address a long-standing disparity. 71% of U.S. clergy hold a master's degree, compared to only 5% outside the U.S. While the General Conference allocates more than \$50 million for 13 U.S. seminaries, only \$5 million is provided for more than 20 seminaries in other regions of the world. This global initiative is an opportunity for us to help close that gap and support the development of strong, well-prepared leaders across our global connection. United Methodist Bishops are leading the way with a historic collective commitment of \$414,208, and as of today, pastors & leaders of the North Carolina Conference raised more than \$50,000. Praise the Lord!

Pastor Edgar is continuing a four-week sermon series on "Miracle Sunday Initiative". Please don't miss any Sunday! Let us also set May 17th as Miracle Sunday date for worship, giving and celebration. Pray boldly for God's work through our congregation. And invite every person to participate in this life-changing moment.

OUTWARD WITNESS TEAM

The Outward Witness Team met last March and April. Pastor Edgar shared the ministry description providing alignment of our purpose as a team. We discussed our current and upcoming projects and addressed some of our community's needs. One key area of our focus will be the "Project Be A Blessing" led by our Lay Leader, Peggy Hernandez. The team is hosting "The Gathering" on May 2nd and will highlight the "Project Be A Blessing" with a guest speaker, love gifts honoring mothers and fellowship meal. The Team also collectively agreed to give donations to the Community Partners of Hope and Miracle Sunday Initiative. Finally, the Team will help coordinate the Kittrell Revival Mission Project (May 16th, 9:30am-11:00am @ Plank Chapel UMC Fellowship Hall) in partnership with churches involved in the Kittrell Revival 2026.

AWAKENINGS

Renew, refresh and revive your spirit as we worship our Awesome God at "Awakenings" every Sunday, 8:00am-9:00am (except third Sunday of the month). "Awakenings" offers contemporary music, come-as-you-are setting, relevant Bible-based conversation and a good cup of coffee! The "Awakenings" will meet on May 3rd, 10th, 24th & 31st.

Journey Children and Youth Have Close Encounters of the Bird Kind During Spring Field Trip

Journey Group Explores Sylvan Heights Bird Park Despite Rain

On Sunday, April 26, children and youth from Journey braved cool, wet weather for an unforgettable field trip to Sylvan Heights Bird Park in Scotland Neck, North Carolina.

Highlights at The Landing Zone

The standout moment was feeding hundreds of parakeets and Caribbean flamingos up close. Kids held seed-covered sticks and were quickly swarmed by eager birds. Parakeets perched on arms, hoodies, and hats while waiting their turn. Some even tugged playfully at shoestrings. Park staff encouraged the hands-on interaction, making it fun for both children and chaperones.

Sylvan Heights is home to one of the world's largest collections of rare waterfowl, with thousands of birds from across the globe displayed throughout aviaries, gardens, and natural wetland areas.

A Visit from the Founder

During lunch in a covered pavilion, founder Ali Lubbock stopped by to share the park's history. She and her late husband, Mike, moved to the U.S. from England with extensive waterfowl expertise. They began breeding rare species in Sylva, North Carolina, before relocating to Scotland Neck in 1989. Today, the Sylvan Heights Avian Breeding Center is recognized worldwide for its rare and exotic waterfowl collection.

UNITED METHODIST MEN

We are grateful to the United Methodist Men for hosting the Pancake Breakfast Fellowship on Easter Sunday. This month's United Methodist Men Breakfast Fellowship will be held on Sunday, May 17th, 8:00am-9:00am in the Fellowship Hall. All men are invited!

BLESSING BOX MINISTRY

Plank Chapel UMC saw a great need in the community for those vulnerable to have access to the food they cannot always afford. And so, we launched the Blessing Box Ministry in 2022 and encouraged church members as well as the community to help keep the box stocked with non-perishable food items for those in need. Also, please check your bookshelves so that we can offer children and adult books as a lending library. We give thanks to God for your generous gifts and support for this outreach ministry.

Hands-On Learning

Journey children explored the park with a scavenger hunt booklet, while the youth tackled the Wetland Safari Challenge pamphlet. Chaperones Lora and Wayne Young, Shakita Huerta, and Nancy and Ron Gustafson guided the group through the walking tour.

More April Activities

Earlier in April, some Journey youth gathered at Creedmoor United Methodist Church for a make-your-own pizza and movie night. Pastor Keith Sexton taught the group how to make homemade pizza, then joined them for a screening of *The Karate Kid* (1984). Afterward, he led a discussion on peer pressure, bullying, and even '80s music.

Journey and Creedmoor's youth program work together through the Tri-County Cooperative Communities on Mission (CCoM). Launched late last year, CCoM builds partnerships among churches in Vance, Granville, and Franklin Counties.

About Journey

Journey offers a safe, caring space for kids and teens ages 5–18 to experience community through storytelling, devotionals, games, music, and food. There's no fee to join, but registration is required. The next gathering will be announced after the monthly planning meeting.

Get Involved

- **To register:** Contact team leader Scott Ritchey for monthly sign-ups.
- **To donate food/drinks:** Call Lora Young at 336-504-7247.
- **For more info:** Reach Ron Gustafson at 203-641-2889 or visit the Journey link at plankchapel.org.

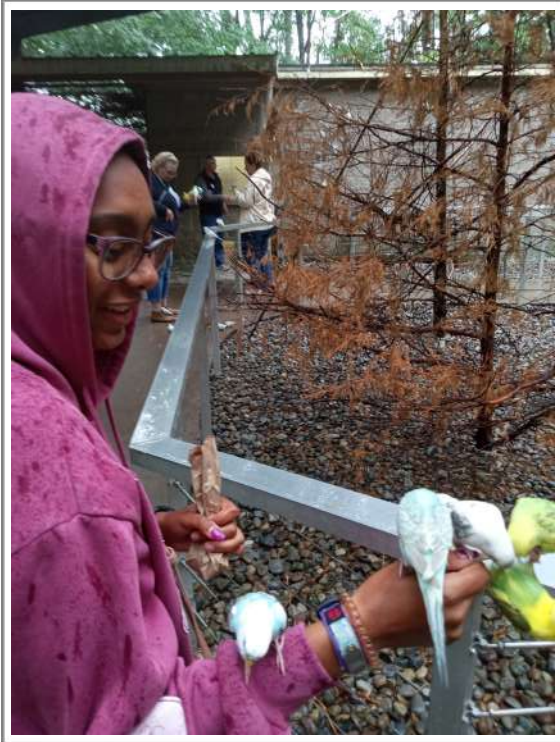
UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

United Women in Faith Sunday was held on April 19th recognizing God's ministry through the United Women in Faith-- composed of women who are "powerful, fearless force" driven by God's love and united in sisterhood. With a focus on women, children and youth, we act for justice and transform communities. This month's meeting of the United Women in Faith will be held on Sunday, May 17th, 3:00am.

SENIOR CIRCLE

Senior Circle is a wonderful way to meet new friends, build relationships and have fun among fellow Christians! We meet every third Wednesday of the month with a program and a wonderful luncheon fellowship @ Plank Chapel UMC Fellowship Hall. This month's Senior Circle will be held on Wednesday, May 20th, 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall. All are invited!





PRAYER REQUESTS
Prayer Requests

Bessie Newman, Tim Smith, Fawn Westmoreland, Kerry Alexander, Debbie Fleming, James Satterwhite, Diane Del Conte, Karin & Dave Driver, Jay Fuller, Susie Beal, Angie Rowland, Marvin Daniel, Donna McDaniel, Arvelle Abbott, Mike Smith, Martha Rowland, Ronald Fuller, Jeanette Weaver, Richard & Joyce Roberts, Family of Faye Moss, Kittrell community, our nation, peace in the Middle East and the world. Shut-Ins: Sammy Burgess, Frances Beckham, Tim Smith, John Rogers, Martha Rowland, Ben & Jackie Brown, Virgie Eaves, Freddie McGhee & Frances Roberts. (For prayer requests, please call 919-418-0682 or email Pastor Edgar @ edejesus@nccumc.org.)

GIVING FLOWERS IN HONOR OR IN MEMORY OF LOVED ONES

You are invited to generously give flowers on Sunday Worship Services for God's glory and in honor or in memory of your loved ones. Please contact Judy Wilson @ Judith9563@gmail.com or (252) 492-0624.

WEDNESDAY ONLINE PRAYER MEETING

Prayer Warriors are invited to join the Wednesday Online Prayer Meeting every week from 7:00pm-7:30pm. We will meet on May 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th.

Please **see the Zoom** link below.



Edgar Raymund A. DeJesus is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96731072214?pwd=z6O3HHRhaCw13h03XmuULTm0Y9A4RJ.1>

Meeting ID: 967 3107 2214

Passcode: 1RL4uP

SENIOR CIRCLE APRIL 15, 2026

The Senior Circle met on April 15, 2026. After Faye Woodlief welcomed everyone, Pastor Edgar De Jesus gave an inspirational talk about what it means to be a Resurrection Christian. He reminded us that because Christ lives, we can face tomorrow with faith, hope and love. We are never alone as we encounter the daily joys and challenges of life.



Don Rose McGhee reached out to the Kerr Tar Council on Aging requesting a volunteer to do a program on Senior Scams and we were surprised by four representatives who covered not only important information on scams, but they also educated us on the many valuable programs available to seniors in 5 local counties including Franklin Granville, Person, Vance, and Warren counties.

Our first guest speaker was Alan Winstead, the Aging Director for the Kerr Tar Regional Council of Governments. He supervises aging services and programs for the five counties mentioned above. He oversees programs such as Meals on Wheels, family caregiver support programs and digital navigation for seniors. He shared information about resources such as the Senior Games, the Silver Arts showcase, and the services to help seniors in long term assisted living facilities and rehab facilities which are coordinated by Kim Hawkins who has served for 32 years and is recognized as the Long Term Care Ombudsman.



Randy Bowen, a digital navigator specialist at Kerr Tar, spoke to us about the rising number of scams targeting the elderly from tech scam prevention involving phone calls, emails, texts, and social media to durable medical equipment fraud, prescription drug scams, and Medicare fraud and abuse. She gave us tips on how to recognize a scam, how to respond when we suspect a scam and whom to contact. Randy educates seniors on how to use technology. She conducts classes for groups as well as individuals.

Michael Patterson, a family caregiver and dementia specialist, spoke to us about resources available to family members who care for elderly or disabled loved ones. His question to us was, "Who cares for the caregiver?" He pointed out that 60% of caregivers pass before their dependent loved one. He provides education to caregivers such as resources and places to turn for assistance. Being a specialist in dementia awareness, he explained dementia is an umbrella term covering Alzheimers, Parkinson's, Lewy body and frontal lobe dementia. A man of many talents, he is also a tai chi practitioner which is known to improve balance, reduce fall risk, enhance cognitive function and increase calmness. Tai chi is suitable for all seniors but especially those suffering from dementia. As an exercise advocate, he demonstrated a relaxation breathing exercise which we all found beneficial.



Crystal Allen, an Aging Specialist at the Kerr Tar Council of Governments, serves as a key contact coordinator for the Senior Games and Silver Arts Programs. She is dedicated to promoting active, healthy aging for adults who are 50 plus. Under the heading of Senior Games comes activities such as cycling, track, football/softball throws, shot put, discus, shuffleboard, corn hole, bowling, billiards, badminton, croquet, basketball shoot, disc golf, mini golf and more. The Silver Arts program showcases local talent in heritage arts such as basket weaving, knitting and pottery. Visual arts includes painting and photography. Literary arts includes poems and essays and performing arts includes drama and music.

We would like to thank each member of the Kerr Tar Senior Specialists for their time and their dedication to the seniors in our community. For more information on a specific topic, please call the Kerr Tar Regional Council of Governments at 252-436-2040.

The 2026 Region K Elder Abuse Awareness and Prevention

Conference and Walk

Friday, June 12, 2026 10:00 to 2:00 Warren County Armory

free t-shirts, lunch, and goodies while supplies last

for more information contact Kimberly Hawkins Kerr Tar Council on Aging 252-436-2040



Susan Sears and Janet Bobbitt

**With Love and Prayers,
Your Friends at Senior Circle**





