



ADDRESS:
8305 Loyola Drive
P. O. Box 38
Stokesdale, NC 27357

PHONE:
336-643-4850

WEB-SITE:
www.stokesdaleumc.org

Stokesdale United Methodist Church

JANUARY 2023

We are reflecting God's love in the heart of the community



ED – itorial for January 2023

Ed-itorial January 2023

Rev. Dr. Ed McKinney - Pastor
Jeff Fink - Music Director
Beth Kasai - Music Assistant
Robin Howerton - Handbell Director
Sarah McKinney - Youth Director
Sharon Moon - Office Manager



MASKING POLICY

Wearing face masks while in the building is optional. Please respect the choices of others and continue to follow health and safety guidelines.

BUILDING USE

If you are needing to reserve the building for personal use, please be mindful of the activities going on inside the church building. We will attempt to accommodate all requests to use the building. Please call the church office in advance to check availability and reserve the facility.



We have started having Worship Leaders as part of our Sunday morning Worship. Worship Leaders are . . . Ushers, Acolytes, Children's Sermon Person, Liturgist. This is not a commitment for every Sunday. Would you like to be involved in leading Worship? Sign up sheets are in the narthex.

Since January 1 happens on Sunday, this is an ideal time for Stokesdale UMC to renew its covenant with God. I hesitate to make "resolutions" because we tend to break them so easily. A covenant is an agreement which brings about a relationship of commitment between God and his people. John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, instituted *A Covenant Renewal Service* at the start of every year to inspire them to "serve God with all our heart and with all our soul." On Sunday morning, January 1, we will have an opportunity to renew our covenant with God as individuals.

For this "Ed-itorial," I will offer three priorities that will form my covenant with God and inform my leadership in 2023. The Pastor Parish Relations Committee (Todd Thomas-chair) and I worked together to create these goals. By focusing on these areas of emphasis, the PPRC and I believe that Stokesdale UMC will continue to reflect God's love at the heart of the community.

1. Defining clearly the goals and direction of Stokesdale UMC. Over the next 3 months, I will work with church leadership to strategize the best use of our resources in order to serve God. One of those resources is the now FIVE acres of land we have on US 158. Let us "DREAM BIG" when discussing development and land usage. Moreover, our motivation should be to reach new families moving into Stokesdale (see next goal) and reach beyond our church walls (see Priority 3).

Another goal is to empower Stokesdale UMC to connect with families that are moving into our community. Many retired persons are moving into Stokesdale due to our great location and to be close to their grandchildren. With employment opportunities booming, new families are coming who need a church home. Reaching these new families is challenging because statistically speaking, Generations X and later do not consider church membership a priority. Stokesdale UMC offers genuine love, care, and support for these families. With new families already participating, they will provide the seeds to promote evangelism. My goal is to cultivate an environment of invitation and hospitality that inspires Christian community and discipleship at Stokesdale UMC.

2. Delivering sermons that challenge, inspire, and motivate. The SPRC considers this a priority not because they don't think I'm a good preacher, but because it is fundamental function of my job. Bishop Will Willimon says it's the most important 20 minutes of a pastor's week. It is humbling to think that over 100 souls will listen to what I have to say and presume that I'm speaking a word from the Lord! Today's sermons do not sound like Jonathan Edwards's 1741 sermon entitled "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God" because today's generation needs to hear that they are created in God's image and they are to reflect that image to others. I've received positive feedback on the recent "Reflecting the Sacred" series. Richard Rohr's work has resonated with many, especially young people looking for a world view and a theology that helps them navigate our world today. I will continue to focus and hone my skills in sermon preparation, content, and delivery using a variety of sources, not just Richard Rohr.

3. Reaching out to and supporting the community, beyond Stokesdale UMC's walls. This is the part of my job that I enjoy the most and do well. I believe that I was appointed here in 2019 because that is what the church needed. With the purchase of a new digital sign, the cooperation with Operation Xcel, and regular use of our land for community events, I believe we are achieving this goal. The community knows that we are an open, welcoming, and inviting congregation. So, what is the next step? How do we deepen the relationships we to inspire Christian discipleship, remedy the challenges facing our neighbors, and build the beloved community?

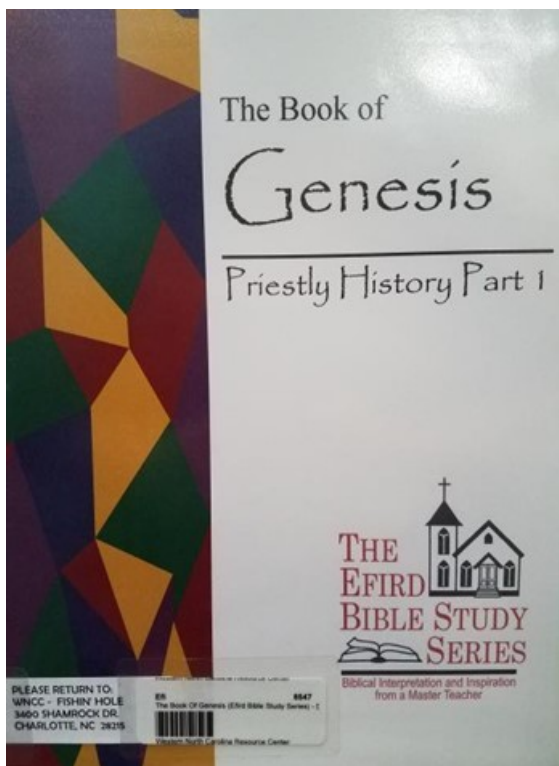


I'm inspired by a speech delivered Nelson Mandela at a Make Poverty History Rally in London on February 3, 2005. Though he's speaking of economic poverty, I believe emotional, spiritual, and relational poverty are also challenges we face. "Like slavery and apartheid," Mandela said, "poverty is not natural. It is man-made, and it can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings. And overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is an act of justice. It is the protection of a fundamental human right, the right to dignity and a decent life... Sometimes it falls upon a generation to be great. You can be that great generation."

We can be and are the great generation to transform Stokesdale UMC and our broader community free from poverty in all its forms. This is a daunting task considering what I've said previously about this generation being disinterested in church. However, we are to do it because we will be focused not on the challenges or the distractions, but a future where Christ is the center. To recall the words of the former President of Liberia, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, who happens to be a United Methodist, "If your dreams don't scare you, they are not big enough."

Through achieving clearly defined goals, preaching effectively, and deepening our community relationships, Stokesdale UMC can achieve BIG DREAMS. That is my covenant with you.

And now, O Glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
Let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.



Bible Study beginning in January

We will begin a basic Bible study using the Efird Bible Study on Genesis on Sunday evenings at 5:00pm on January 15th. The study, lasting approximately 1 hour is open to everyone. Dr. James (Mickey) Efird taught pastors at Duke Divinity School for over 40 years. Now he brings his teachings to the local church. He gives the earnest person a method of approaching and interpreting the books of the Bible. Learning what the texts meant when written 2000 years ago gives direction as to how they may be applied today. Please contact Rev. Allen Ridenour if you are interested via email (allen.ridenour@outlook.com) or phone (336-331-2727). You may text him at the phone number. Rev. Ridenour looks forward to sharing with you in this study!



YOUTH CONFIRM SERIES

YOUR FAITH/YOUR COMMITMENT/GOD'S CALL

January - May 2023

January 1 - no meeting
January 8 - 4-5pm Introduction
January 15 - 4-5pm Session 1: The Early Church
January 22 - help lead worship
January 29 - 10-11am Session 2: Wesley & the Methodists

FRIDAY, February 3 - Visit Synagogue
February 5 - 10-11am Session 3: The Connection
February 12 - 4-5pm Session 4: Music & Lyrics
February 19 - help lead worship
WEDNESDAY, February 22 - Help w/ Ash Wednesday service
February 26 - 4-5pm Session 5: A Loving Church

March 5 - 4-5pm Session 6: Experiencing God
SATURDAY, March 11 - Visit Catholic Church
March 12 - 10-11am Session 7: The Bible
March 19 - 4-5pm Session 8: Hitting the Mark: Sin & Grace
March 26 - help lead worship

Sat&Sun, April 1 & 2 - Retreat (St. Francis Retreat Center?)
THURSDAY, April 6 - help with Maundy Thursday Service
April 9 - Easter
April 16 - Spring Break
April 23 - 10-11am Session 9: What's Next? Life After Death
April 30 - 4-5pm Session 10: A Spirit to Find

May 7 - 4-5pm Session 11: A Journey to Continue
May 14 - Mother's Day
May 21 - CONFIRMATION DAY





SUMC in the Community



Christmas Parade

December 10, 2022



Children's Nativity Scene



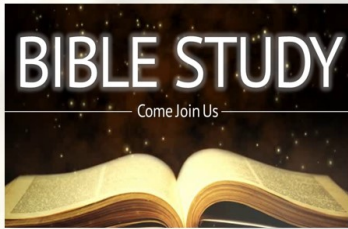
Friendship Dinner Taco Night



Winter
is here



Bible Study



Starting Sunday,
January 15th
5-6PM

Contact Rev. Allen Ridenour via email:
allen.ridenour@outlook.com or phone/text 336-331-2727



Stokesdale Rural Outreach Program

**DID YOU
KNOW?**

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 12th
10:30AM – 12:00PM

Stokesdale United Methodist Church

Call or email to reserve your lunch!

336-373-4816 x265

or email ruraloutreach@senior-resources-Guilford.org.

Blood Drive

American Red Cross

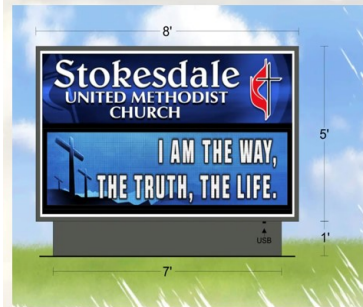
Stokesdale UMC, Fellowship Hall



DATE: January 31, 2023
TIME: 2PM - 7PM



Call **Randy Southard** at 336-908-1301 for an appointment or
visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter Sponsor Code:
Stokesdale UMC



Consider a donation
above and beyond your
regular giving for the
New Digital Sign. We
already have gifts
providing over half of
what we need as you
will see on the next slide.
Please designate your gift
for "Digital Sign."



Goshen Book Club



Next Meeting:
DATE: January 26th
TIME: 6PM
LOCATION: Parlor

Everyone is welcome!
Happy reading!

Book of the Month:
The Four Winds by, Kristin Hannah



Next Meeting:
January 10th
10:30AM

**Upcoming
Meetings:**

January 24th

For more information:

Rev. Donna Friddle 336-427-4813 Rev. Dr. Ed McKinney 336-643-4850



United
Women
in Faith

**Upcoming
Meeting:**

*Come
Join Us?*

January 10th
@ 1PM

Contact Elaine Christopher for more information

Quail Acres Mobile Market



Quail Acres Mobile Food Market

Distribution on Friday, January 27th
3-5PM

GSM Food Pantry

Distribution Day:
Saturday, January 21st
@ 9AM



OPERATION X • C • E • L

AFTER SCHOOL

Monday thru Friday

3-6PM



Vivian Mestre,
Lead Teacher
336-423-7566

WISH LIST

- Box juices / Capri Sun / Kool Aid Jammers
- Gallon of Milk / regular or 2%
- Individually wrapped chips / any kind
- Chex Mix (blue bag only) / Traditional
- Cookies / Pop Tarts
- Oatmeal Pies / sweet snacks
- Breakfast bars
- Spoons / Plates / Napkins
- Gummies / candy
- Hot dogs / buns
- Cereals (Cinnamon Crunch or Lucky Charms)
- Small bowls for cereal

WE ARE OFFERING FIVE WAYS YOU CAN GIVE TO THE CHURCH:

1. Bring your offering on Sunday morning
2. Go to www.StokesdaleUMC.org and click on the "GIVE" tab
3. Bring your offering to the church office Monday through Thursday from 9AM-2PM
4. Mail your check to Stokesdale UMC, P O Box 38, Stokesdale, NC 27357
5. Set up bill pay through your bank to Stokesdale United Methodist Church



Stokesdale United Methodist Church

Calendar of Events for JANUARY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 10AM Sunday School 11AM Worship 11AM no Youth	2	3 Noon – Word & Table 1PM Al-Anon 3-6PM Operation Xcel	4 3-6PM Operation Xcel 6PM Handbell Practice 7PM Choir Practice	5 3-6PM Operation Xcel	6 3-6PM Operation Xcel	7 9AM Decorations
Eric James		Tristin Pegram	Maggie Hanks		Becky Wilson	Sherill Landreth
8 10AM Sunday School 11AM Worship 4PM Youth Introduction 4PM Confirmation Class	9 3-6PM Operation Xcel 6PM Girl Scouts 7PM Missions	10 10:30AM Grief Group Noon – Word & Table 1PM Al-Anon 1PM UWF 3-6PM Operation Xcel 7PM Trustees	11 3-6PM Operation Xcel 6PM Handbell Practice 7PM Choir Practice	12 10:30AM Senior Resources 3-6PM Operation Xcel	13 3-6PM Operation Xcel	14
Lisa Pegram Cindy Byrne		Jane Hartman Meda Howell	Larry Eller Larry & Brigitte Shelton	Cassandra Strickland		
15 10AM Sunday School 11AM Worship 4PM Youth Session 1 4PM Confirmation Class 5PM Bible Study	16 3-6PM Operation Xcel 6PM Girl Scouts	17 Noon – Word & Table 1PM Al-Anon 3-6PM Operation Xcel 6:30PM Finance 7PM Admin Council	18 3-6PM Operation Xcel 6PM Handbell Practice 7PM Choir Practice	19 3-6PM Operation Xcel	20 3-6PM Operation Xcel	21
Payton Simmons Joy Joyce Rylie Cole	Bobby Gaudin Christopher Brame					Diane Preddy Nick Reid
22 10AM Sunday School 11AM Worship 11AM Youth Worship 5PM Bible Study	23 3-6PM Operation Xcel 6PM Girl Scouts	24 10:30AM Grief Group Noon – Word & Table 1PM Al-Anon 3-6PM Operation Xcel	25 3-6PM Operation Xcel 6PM Handbell Practice 7PM Choir Practice	26 3-6PM Operation Xcel 6pm Goshen Book Club	27 3-6PM Operation Xcel 3-5PM Quail Acres Mobile Market	28 9AM GSM Food Pantry Phyllis Green Kevin Landreth Jamie Harte Suzanne Turner
29 10AM Youth Session 2 10AM Confirmation Class 11AM Worship Youth no meeting 5PM Bible Study 6PM Fifth Sunday Singing (Flat Rock UMC)	30 3-6PM Operation Xcel 6PM Girl Scouts	31 Noon – Word & Table 1PM Al-Anon 2-7PM Blood Drive 3-6PM Operation Xcel		Steve Howerton	Mike Williams	
Louise Grotzinger	Scott Wilson					