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Stokesdale United Methodist Church
We are reflecting God's love in the heart of the community

Newsletter for August 2024

ED – itorial for AUGUST 2024

Quietly Courageous: The Story of Nashon, son of Aminidab

About ten years ago, I invited Rabbi Andy Koren of Temple Emanuel to Vacation Bible School to recount his tradition's story of the parting of the Red Sea. Rabbi Andy dramatically told the children about Nashon, son of Aminidab. This is not in the book of Exodus, but part of the Midrash, or stories that the rabbis tell inspired by the biblical text. When the Israelites came to the banks of the Red Sea, the sea lay before them unparted. Their prospects did not look good. Venturing into unparted waters meant certain drowning, and surrendering to the Egyptians meant slavery, punishment, and death. Someone needed to test the waters and experience the promise of God for deliverance.

The leaders of the tribes of the Israel gathered at the waters edge and asked, "Who's going to go first?" Action was needed, but the leaders did what leaders know how to do and formed a committee!! Since no decision was forthcoming, Nashon, son of Aminidab, remembered God's promise, so he stood up and began to walk into the water.

With the children captivated, Rabbi Andy pointed to his feet and said, "Nashon walked into the water up to his ankles, and the waters did not part." His hands moving upward, he continued, "Nashon walked into the water up to his waist, and the waters did not part. Up to his shoulders, then to his chin, and the waters did not part. Nashon kept walking." The children were stunned silent, then Andy said, "As Nashon took the step that would have put his nose under water, the waters parted." It is appropriate that Nashon means "stormy sea waves" in Hebrew.

Quiet Courage. No memorable words. No persuasive arguments. Not even assurance that Nashon knew what he was doing. Nashon simply remembered the purpose of fleeing the Egyptians, remembered the promise given to Moses, and quietly got up and did what was required.

In his book, *Quietly Courageous*, Gil Rendle argues "that such quiet courage is needed because the depth of change the church now faces makes is exceedingly difficult for long-established institutions (or 'organized religion') to thrive." Churches with good leaders are tempted to back to learned behaviors such as forming committees on the banks of the Red Sea with the Egyptians coming on chariots. Rendle says emphatically, "The established institutional church cannot now thrive on the good leadership it currently has."

Gil Rendle has worked with lay and clergy church leadership for thirty years. He has witnessed the goodness of church leaders and the diligent work they provide. Regardless of how good and efficient they (or we) are, good leaders are not equipped to the new mission field where we are living. Rendle explains, "Trends of increasing generational disinterest and trends of cultural irrelevancy of organized religion continue unabated." For example, where are the twenty and thirty somethings on Sunday mornings? He continues, "Leaders must change from good leadership to quiet, courageous, purposeful leadership." That means we need less committee meetings and more Nashons, sons and daughters of Aminidab.

I'm reading Gil Rendle's *Quietly Courageous* as part of the Bishop Ken Carter's "First Church Cohort." The cohort consists United Methodist Church's centered in small towns throughout Western NC, like Stokesdale. Together, the lay and clergy leadership of these churches will learn the skills to be more like Nashon and less like the committee on the banks of the Red Sea. Over the next year, I along with a leadership team will collaborate with church leaders, Bishop Carter, and other consultants to discern a purpose-filled and positive future for Stokesdale UMC.

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Rev. Dr. Ed McKinney - Pastor
Jeff Fink - Music Director
Beth Southard - Music Assistant
Robin Howerton - Handbell Director
Sarah McKinney - Youth Director
Linda Curtis - 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.

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

1. BRING your offering to Sunday Worship
2. GO TO: www.StokesdaleUMC.org
Click on the "GIVE" tab
3. BRING your offering to the church office M-Th 12:30—4:30PM
4. MAIL your check to:
Stokesdale UMC
PO Box 38
Stokesdale, NC 27357
5. SET UP bill pay through your bank to: Stokesdale UMC

BUILDING USE

If you need 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.



ROAD TRIP

Join Kathy Hanko for another road trip! When...Friday, August 16th. We will be going to the Greensboro History Museum on Summit Avenue. It is a site of a former Confederate hospital and Presbyterian Church. After the tour, we will tie on the feedbag at Natty Greene's Brewing Co. Contact Kathy Hanko to reserve a space and for further information. You can find her in the new directory!



Senior Resources of Guilford's



Stokesdale Rural Outreach Program

Luncheon Featuring Musical Therapist
Randi Lee of Magnolia Melodies



Thursday, August 8th, 2024
10:30am - 12:00pm
Stokesdale United Methodist Church
8305 Loyola Drive, Stokesdale

July attendees are pre-registered unless otherwise requested. All others please call: Larry Kirwan or Connie Hicks at 336-373-4816, ext: 265, for reservations.

Guilford County residents 55 years and older

The Stokesdale Outreach program is sponsored by Senior Resources of Guilford, a United Way Agency, in partnership with Stokesdale United Methodist Church

Cemetery & Columbarium Guidelines

Recently revised guidelines are available on our website
www.stokesdaleumc.org or on request.

Contact Church Office for information:
(336) 643-4850

Cemetery Stone Cleaning

Hands that help the homeless



We pray for them
We pray for you
We pray for donations
Call Mike at 336-451-9433

Contact Mike Turner (336) 451-9433

Dollars for Creekside



Please help Creekside Manor by donating TODAY!

The collection jar is located in the Narthex



As a Lighthouse Congregation, Stokesdale UMC is committed to remain a part of The United Methodist Church and serve those who have lost their church homes through disaffiliation or closure. We will partner in this work by providing a welcoming place, offering ministry opportunities, helping organize remnant groups in our community, and assisting individuals and groups in discerning their next steps as they find a new church home. See Pastor Ed or Pastor Donna for more information.



COLLECTION OF SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Good Samaritan Ministries will be collecting school supplies for area elementary schools and Operation Xcel until August 18, 2024. Here is a list of the items needed:

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| Crayons (<i>Crayola brand preferred</i>) | Glue Sticks |
| Wide-ruled notebook paper | #2 pencils |
| Wide-ruled composition books (<i>no spiral wire</i>) | |

A container will be placed in the Narthex for collection.

Pastor Ed's Sermon Series: Worship with Rejoicing

You can serve the church in many ways. See the



sign up board in the Narthex or scan the QR code for more information.



ED-itorial *continued from front page*

We have the essential elements to be a dynamic congregation with our new families, our ministry with Operation Xcel, inspiring worship services, our location, and our building assets. The challenge is, "Who is going to go first?" Who will venture into the deep water and claim God's promises?

We all have been frustrated that whatever we try doesn't work, we spin our wheels in committee meetings, and wonder what we are doing wrong. It is our hope that through the First Church co-hort, we will have the tools to be effective leaders in a 21st century culture that is indifferent or even hostile towards organized religion. The end result of our work will be:

- A clear picture of the current reality of both Stokesdale UMC and our town.
- A clear and compelling vision for the church
- Key strategy areas for progress and a system/structure for implementation
- A process for transformation and continual learning.

In the weeks ahead, I'll be looking for a few good Nashons, sons and daughters of Adminidab, who are willing to take the first step into the Red Sea. Today is a great day to be part of Stokesdale United Methodist Church where we are reflecting God's love at the heart of the community.





AUGUST

- 4th Heather Hahn
- 11th Misti Ridenour
- 18th Meredith Duell
- 25th Sarah McKinney



SUMMER CAMP SHOWCASE

All are welcome to join us for the Operation Xcel—SUMC Summer Camp Showcase

When: Monday, August 5, 2024

Time: 4:00—5:30 pm

Come see all the awesome work the children have done this summer! If you have any questions please contact Vivian Mestre at 336-423-7566.

CAMP FIRELIGHT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



August, Robin & Steve Howerton
SUMC is so thankful for this family and their heart
for Vacation Bible School!



*Bible stories, arts and crafts,
outside activities . . . fun was
had by all!*

*A special thanks is extended
to everyone who helped
make VBS a success this year!*





August meetings as follows:

August 13th

August 27th

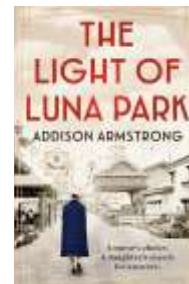
10:30 am in the Parlor

Contact Rev. Donna Friddle

336-427-4813 for more information



GOSHEN BOOK CLUB



For August's meeting we will be discussing "The Light of Luna Park" by Addison Ann Strong. The club meets on August 22nd at 5:30.

All are welcome!

SUNDAY, August 11th



Pocket Change Sunday

Every 2nd Sunday!

All Donations go to Children's Ministries



GRAND OPENING
CELEBRATION
AUGUST 31, 2024
1-4 pm
STONEVILLE NC



Men's Group Meeting



Breakfast Meeting
Sunday, August 11th
@ 7:30am in the Fellowship
Hall. All men are welcome.
Contact Todd Thomas at
336-423-4916 with any
questions.

MONTHLY MEETING AND PRACTICES RESUME THIS MONTH

Weekly Handbell Practice

6:00 pm

Weekly Choir Practice

7:00 pm

United Women in Faith

Tuesday, August 13th @ 3:00 pm

Trustees

Tuesday, August 13th @ 7:00 pm

Finance

Tuesday, August 20th @ 6:30 pm

Admin Council

Tuesday, August 20th @ 7:00 pm

Stokesdale United Methodist Church Calendar of Events for August 2024
Where we are reflecting God's love in the heart of the community!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
4 10am Sunday School 11am Worship	5 8-4 Operation Xcel 7pm Missions	6 8-4 Operation Xcel 12pm Word & Table 1pm Al-Anon	7 8-4 Operation Xcel 6pm Handbell Practice 7pm Choir Practice	1 8-4 Operation Xcel	2 8-4 Operation Xcel	3
ELROY SOUTHDARD SHERRY TUMLIN SHELBY THOMAS <small>BRISHA & TODD COMPTON</small>	CORBIN STANLEY	TYLER LOMBARDO		SUSAN JONES		BRENDA HOLT
11 POCKET CHANGE 7:30am UMM 10am Sunday School 11am Worship	12	13 10:30am Grief Group 12pm Word & Table 1pm Al-Anon 3:00pm UWF 7:00pm Trustees	14 6pm Handbell Practice 7pm Choir Practice	15	16	17
BRANDON HICKS	NATHAN TRICHE	TOM MCCOY	NEWT BAXTER ROBBIE DAVIS MASON TURNER	RACHEL REID MARY O'BRIEN-IRONS		
18 10am Sunday School 11am Worship	19	20 12pm Word & Table 1pm Al-Anon 6:30pm Finance 7:00pm Admin Council	21 6pm Handbell Practice 7pm Choir Practice	22 5:30pm Goshen Book Club	23 3-5pm Ellisboro Mobile Market	24
CHASE BRAME DAVID SHELTON	JEAN ATTAWAY JASON HOLBROOK SARAH & ED MCKINNEY	27 10:30am Grief Group 12pm Word & Table 1pm Al-Anon	VARKIE AJAMIAN EILEEN THIERY JOHN BROWN	JEFF FINK	ELAINE CHRISTOPHER TERRY STEPHENS BRANDON LANDRETH CASSIE MARTIN	GENE TIESLER JUDY & BOB WRAY
25 10am Sunday School 11am Worship	26	27 10:30am Grief Group 12pm Word & Table 1pm Al-Anon	28 6pm Handbell Practice 7pm Choir Practice	29	30	31 9:00am GSM Food Pantry 1-4:00 LOT 2540 Grand Opening
CAROLYN WHITE-HOPPER JUSTIN SOUTHDARD	DANIELLE SIMPSON	<small>BEVERLEY & DOUGLAS WATTS</small>	ED CAMPBELL			