

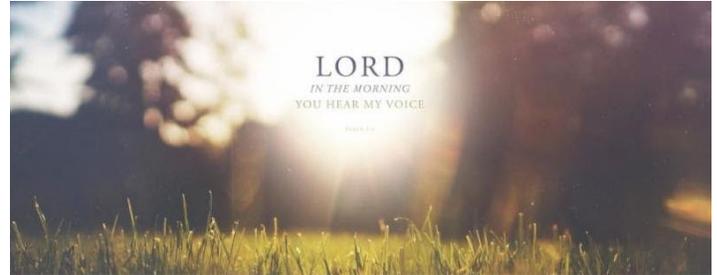


Stokesdale United Methodist Church Newsletter - August 2018
Reflecting God's love at the heart of the community.

Pastor Ashley's Ponderings for August 2018

*This month I am sharing a message from our District Superintendent,
Rev. Beverly B. Coppley . . .*

"O Lord, in the morning you hear my voice..."
Psalm 5:3



Each morning, I take at least thirty minutes to sit quietly and openly in God's presence. This gives me some time to meditate upon scripture, frame my day by sharing my hopes with God, and most of all seek God's refinement and guidance in those hopes. I've been doing this for many years, inspired by the words of the great Dietrich Bonhoeffer - "the early morning belongs to the Church of the Risen Christ."

He says this in *Life Together*, one of my favorite books:

At the threshold of the new day stands the Lord who made it... Therefore, at the beginning of the day let all distraction and empty talk be silenced and let the first thought and the first word belong to him in whom our whole life belongs. (*Life Together*, p.43)

I am aware, even as I go through my own current ministry transition, that more than 35 persons and churches in our district are also undergoing days of transition. Many new mornings of ministry are beginning, even this week. Some are moving from far away, and others are relocating within the district. Still others are taking on a new or expanded role. Wow, it's easy to push hard on weeks like these and forget to reflect. It's easy to forget that the early morning is Christ's time for us and with us, just as it was that first Easter morning. Let us not begin with to-do lists or with anxiety; let us begin each day with Christ.

As I begin to settle in to the District Office, I want to take a moment to encourage each of you who are beginning new appointments and receiving persons into new appointments, and also each of you who, while you might not be in ministry transition, are perhaps using summertime to establish some new, life-giving practices. Let our Lord have that important time; he will use it to shape your character and your day. I encourage you to lean into life-giving practices, no matter what your circumstance.

It was a joy to meet many of you at Nancy's retirement party at Christ UMC last month, and I look forward to our mutual ministry in the Northern Piedmont District. Nancy is my long-time mentor and friend, and I am honored to follow in her footsteps. Lynne, Landa, and Maria have been a great help to me as I have unpacked my boxes and begun to find my way. You have a terrific district staff!

As you can imagine, my pace of life has accelerated tremendously since being named a District Superintendent. For several months, I was navigating these new waters as well as serving as Senior Pastor of Ardmore UMC. My work is now complete at Ardmore, and I am at your service as Chief Missional Strategist of this wonderful district. My husband, Jeff, and I have recently purchased a home in this area, and we look forward to closing on it in a few weeks. Jeff is also an Elder in our connection, and he serves as Senior Pastor at Maple Springs UMC in Winston-Salem. Our daughter Ellen (25) is on the ministry staff at Hillsdale UMC in Advance and is also Executive Director at Hearts with Haiti, a non-profit serving two orphanages in Port-au-Prince and Jacmel. Our son Thomas (20) is a counselor at Camp Mount Shepherd in the Uwharrie District and will be a junior at Appalachian State University this fall.

I am eager to meet you and share with you in the work of the Gospel. I hope you can be present at my Installation Service on Sunday, August 26 at 4:00 pm at Wesley Memorial UMC in High Point.

Looking Forward,
Bev Coppley



- 3rd Brenda Holt
- 4th Janice Simpson
Elroy Southard
Shelby Thomas
- 6th Jordan Huff
Tyler Lombardo
- 8th Ruby Matthews
Susan Jones
- 10th Tanner Peach
- 11th Brandon Hicks
- 12th Tammy Gray
- 14th Newt Baxter
Judy York
Robbie Davis
- 15th Rachel Reid
- 17th Phyllis Warren
- 18th Chase Brame
David Shelton
- 19th Jean Attaway
Jason Holbrook
- 22nd Jeff Fink
- 23rd Elaine Christopher
Terry Stephens
Brandon Landreth
Cassie Martin
- 24th Gene Tiesler
Jonathan Thacker
Meranda Marshall
- 25th Carolyn White Hopper
- 26th Danielle Simpson
- 30th Lucille Friddle

Every Sunday	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship Service
Every Wednesday	6:00 pm	Youth Group
		Adult Bells
	7:00 pm	Adult Choir
Every Thursday	6:00 pm	Word & Table
1st	05:30 pm	UMM Meal
6th	07:00 pm	Missions
9th	10:00 am	Senior Resources
13th	03:30 pm	UMW
	07:00 pm	Trustees
16th	07:00 pm	Goshen Book Club
17th	06:30 pm	Youth Lock-In
20th	06:30 pm	Finance
	07:00 pm	Admin Council
21st	07:00 pm	Discipleship
25th	09:00 am	Food Pantry (Mt Zion hosting)



Attention to all rising 6th through 12th graders!!
*If you are a rising 6th grader, you are welcome to become a part of the Youth Group. We have two separate groups: 6th -8th grades is the Junior Group and 9th -12th is the Senior Group. Please contact Lisa Thomas if you are interested in joining us. **Our schedule for the summer is very sporadic, so please contact Lisa for the meeting nights and time, 336-643-5492 (home) or 336-423-1162 (cell).** We will be back on a regular schedule in September. Thank you.*

Upcoming Events:

Youth Lock-In

*Friday, August 17th 6:30 pm till 9:00 am on Saturday morning!
 6th to 12th grade students are welcome.
 Bring your favorite snack!*

Out of the Garden Service Project

Sunday, September 9th Noon - 2:00 pm

Call Lisa Thomas for more information or questions!



Join the *Senior Resource* group on Thursday, August 9, 2018 @ 10:00 for lunch and learn about senior activities, events and information with the Town of Stokesdale.

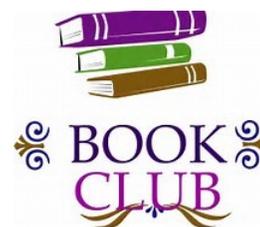


During the month of July
we received donations from folks in
memory of:

Katherine Pegram from
Terry & Doug Stephens
LuAnn & Teddy Royal
Kathryn & Mark Richardson

Jeannie Fox from
Bonnie Mills
Phyllis Green
Terry & Doug Stephens
Powell Shelton, Jr.

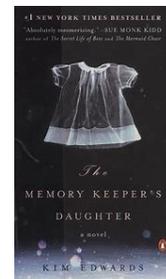
William D. Cummings from
Rebecca & Bill Melvin
Martha & Bobby Richardson
Powell Shelton, Jr.



Goshen Book Club

#1 New York Times Best Seller—more
than 4 million copies sold... **"The
Memory Keeper's Daughter"** by Kim
Edwards.

Join us August 16th at 7:00 pm for
book discussion and a great time of
fellowship. Bring a friend, too!



In Honor of

During the month of July
we received donations from folks
honoring:

our 2018 Graduates and Leigh Southard from
Terry & Doug Stephens
Kenneth Simpson from
Betty Shelton
All the Secret Pals from
Leigh & Todd Southard



August and Robin Howerton would
like to extend a BIG "thank you"
to everyone for their help and
participation in our Vacation Bible
School this year. They are grateful
to those who helped through
donations, time, and/or prayers!
We can't wait until next year!

Leola has moved. If you would like to
visit her or send her a card here is her
address:

Leola Vaughn
4434 Old Battleground Road
Apt. 216
Greensboro, NC 27410



Her new phone # is 336-282-4206

Missions Corner. . .

thank you!



- ⇒ *To all who helped prepare and serve the meal at Camp Carefree - we served 140 campers!*
- ⇒ *To all who provided food for the Hot Dog Luncheon in memory of Mary & Jack Johnson raising money for Project Agape Shipping! And to all who donated funds, over \$800 was raised*
- ⇒ *To all who donated their gently used shoes for the "Soles for Souls" project. The shoes will be distributed in the U.S. and Haiti.*
- ⇒ *To all who donated "undies" We collected 181 pairs for men, women and children for Project Agape. The missions committee also purchased 12 dozen cloth diapers and rubber pants .*
- ⇒ *To all who donated disposable diapers, we collected 21 dozen. The diapers will be distributed at Good Samaritan Food distribution center*
- ⇒ *To all who continue to provide food for the Good Samaritan Food Pantry*
- ⇒ *To all who contribute Dollars for Creekside. The jar is on the table in the Narthex for your contributions.*



SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR GOOD SAMARITAIN MINISTRIES . . .

It's that time of year again! Here's a list of supplies needed:

- | | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Pencils | Glue Sticks | Composition Books | Crayons - box of 24 |
| Colored Pencils | Washable Markers | Wide-ruled Notebook Paper | |

watch the bulletin and upcoming newsletters for additional projects we will be doing!

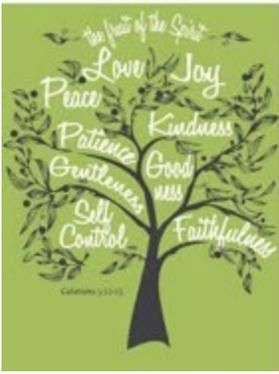
Thank you for your ongoing financial gifts to God through our church throughout the summer!



Our summer contributions have been a little lighter than the first part of the year, which is not unusual for this time of year in all churches. If you realize you've gotten a little bit behind in your giving, now is a great time to get caught up. The general budget remains our first funding priority, and we thank you for continuing to make it the first priority in your giving. As we are over half way through the year we are making available your year-to-date giving statements for your review. They will be available August 5th in the Narthex.

As a reminder, now is also a great time to join the families in our church who are already using online giving. Did you know that online gifts now account for about 20% of the funds given each month? It's easy, secure, and your gift amount and schedule is always under your complete control. Those who are using online giving are enjoying the peace of mind of knowing their contribution is being made, even when work, travel, or family commitments keep them from being in worship on a Sunday.

The church's overall financial picture is still very strong, and we are grateful for your help in keeping it that way.



Practice for Growing in the Fruit of the Spirit-Prayer changes things, it's not magic, but it is miraculous. Prayer can help us make the right choices in life.

~ written by Jeanie Cullip (adapted slightly), and posted on <http://www.examiner.com/article/praying-and-journaling-through-the-fruit-of-the-spirit-every-day>

God, I ask for Your love to be so profound and powerful in my life so that I am able to fully experience it. May Your love flow through me unto others. (John 15:10)

God, I ask You for joy no matter the circumstances. (John 15:11)

God, I ask You for Your presence in my life. In it I will find peace that passes all understanding. (Philippians 4:7)

God, I ask You to help me trust You with my life. (James 1:4)

God, I ask You to clothe me in Your kindness, compassion, humility, gentleness and patience. (Colossians 3:12) I pray that Your brand of kindness will grow within me so that I can sacrifice my life for others with acts of kindness just as You did on the cross.

God, I ask You for Your goodness to be sown within my soul which will lead me to produce good deeds. (Matthew 12:35)

God, I ask You to give me the ability to be solid, steadfast, dependable, reliable, loyal and trustworthy. Give me the strength and wisdom to do what is right no matter what! (Luke 16:10)

God, I ask that I can be gentle and meek as Jesus was, being considerate of the feelings and needs of others. (2 Corinthians 10:1)

God, I ask for You to plant within me self-control. Help me make every effort to add to my faith, goodness. To my goodness add, knowledge. To my knowledge add, self-control, to my self-control add, perseverance. To my perseverance add, godliness. (2 Peter 1:5-6)

God help me to plant good seeds of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Galatians 5:22-23)

Pull up any weeds that I may have grown up around my soul. Feed the soil of my heart with Your Word. Holy Spirit, water it afresh and new every day that I may produce a crop of spiritual fruit that will make You proud. Amen