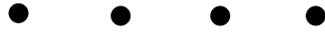




Love in Action

The Newsletter of Maggie Valley United Methodist Church

Volume 11, Issue 12



December, 2018

From Pastor Ann

Greetings Church Family!

We are entering the important time of the year known as Advent. The word "Advent" literally means "coming." During the season of Advent, or the four weeks leading to Christmas, we as Christians are awaiting the arrival of Jesus. We will celebrate the coming of the baby Jesus. We also look forward to the coming of Christ at the end of time. The two comings of Jesus are very much related. While we celebrate the birth of our Savior, we also anticipate Jesus' ultimate return.

During the month of December, I will be preaching a sermon series entitled "Checking, Decking, and Dashing." We check lists, deck halls, and dash through snow to make Christmas happen. What if long lists, crowded stores and hectic plans didn't define Christmas? Advent is the time to remind us to cut through the holiday chaos and simplify Christmas. The sermons will explore how we can check our lives with peace, deck our halls with love, and dash to others with messages of joy and hope. We will join together every Sunday morning to focus on the true meaning of Christmas.



There are several additional opportunities for you to join the Maggie Valley community in worship and fellowship this month. As you busy yourself with the preparations for Christmas - baking cookies, shopping for gifts, decorating your home, eating with friends and family - I hope you will join us.

There will be a Subject 2 Change concert, Blessing of the Animals, the annual choir cantata, and a service for those grieving during the holidays. Of course, there will also be a Christmas Eve service complete with Communion, beautiful music, and candlelight - and special parts geared especially for children. Please see the dates, times, and more information inside the newsletter as well as on our invitation postcards. All of the events are also on Facebook. Invite a friend to join you. The Advent and Christmas season is often a time people consider returning to church, so I hope you will offer a friend an opportunity to deepen their faith.

I am excited for Christmas! I am also eager to prepare my heart and mind for the coming of Jesus. As you celebrate the season, I hope you will join us at Maggie Valley UMC as we prepare for the advent of Christ.

Many blessings,
Pastor Ann

From Pastor Erma

This past month I found myself saying, "Let's wait until Thanksgiving is over and then, I will have time to talk with you about other things that need to be done. Thanksgiving has come and gone and we saw God at work in so many ways. We were truly blessed this year.

Then on Wednesday at 6:30 pm, the official decorating of the church began. The lights in the sanctuary were put in place and the Chrismon tree appeared behind the choir pews. Now I hear talk about decorating their homes and getting their shopping done. We say every year that we are not going to do as much as we have in the past. AND as before we will work ourselves to exhaustion.

Today, instead of thinking of all that we need to do to get ready for Christmas, think of the gifts that Christ has put under the great Christmas tree of life. Gifts that we don't think about as gifts.

The first gift is rest. Jesus said, "Come to me, all that are weary and carry heavy burdens and I will find rest for your souls." (Matthew 11: 28) We all work to buy, wrap, and deliver our gifts. Then we decorate, cook and entertain. How tired we are after all this? Was the work worth one day of celebration and festivities? Christ offers us the gift of rest.

The second gift that he gives us is the Keys of the Kingdom. "I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of heaven and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." (Matthew 16: 19) Think of all the keys we have: to our cars, to our homes, these keys are so often misplaced or break or rust, but Christ offers us keys to a Kingdom that will last forever... I believe that these are: the keys of knowledge to know Christ; keys of doctrine so that we can tell others what the Bible teaches to the best of our ability; the keys of discipline so that we can overcome evil with God's help.

A third gift is the gift of living water. "Those who drink of the water that I give them will never be thirsty. ...the water in them will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." (John 4: 14) As we tell others about this gift of eternal life, this gift of living water, remember that it is a gift to be given away over and over and still have plenty left.

The gift of the bread of heaven is the fourth gift that Christ gave us. "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." (John 6:51) The great preacher, Charles Spurgeon said, "Depend on it, the only way to meet our hunger is to get bread; and the only way to meet your souls wants is to get Christ."

Gift number five is eternal life. We are all his children and He wants us to live with him forever as we read the passage in John 10:28: "I will give them eternal life and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand."

The sixth and final gift is peace. "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. I do not give as the world gives, let not your hearts be troubled and do not let them be afraid." (John 14: 17) What a wonderful gift! Matthew Henry describes the gift this way. "His clothes fell to the soldiers, His mother He left to John. But what should he leave His poor disciples that had left all for Him? Silver and gold, He had none, but He left them that which was infinitely better- -His peace."

As Christmas approaches and we struggle with what to give our family, think of the gifts that Christ brings to us. These gifts will make us happy, well fed, give us eternal life and fill our souls with an everlasting peace.

May peace, love, joy and hope be with each of you this Christmas and forever!

In Christ' Service,
Erma



Prayer Concerns

Our Kindred Spirits Prayer Group meets on Wednesday morning at 10:00 am at MVUMC. Come to Pastor Ann's office to join this group and please keep these in your prayers:

The Bathrobe Group	Jane & John Berrevoets	Bryan	Brian Burr	Carol
Greg Carpenter	Nita Childers	Gia Clouse	Jerri Collins	Bill Conard
Mari Conneen	Judy Cooper	Suzanne Corwin	Kitty Crain	Angie Davenport
David	Joanie Devine	Kirk Duclos	Linda F.	Judi Ferris
Frances	Frank	Bonnie & Larry Germaine	Bill Glave	Cindy Gordon
Harold Gray	Katie Griffin	Hadley	Bea Hawkins & Son	Debbie Hembree's father, John
Michael Hinebaugh	Claude Jermain	Jocelyn	Connie Jones	Frank Lipe
Cheryl & Destiny Little	Candy Lott	Joann Lowder	Parker Lynn	Jim Mackey
Betty Madgett	Marjorie	Denise McCullough	Brenda Mehaffey	Kerrie Mock
Sandra Morris	Shelda Muirhead	Steve Muse	Anne Neely	Donna Paite
Lynn & Mark Rains	Lynn Rains' Mother, Margie	Kelly Reed	Ruby Rogers	Robena Russell
Robert Setzer	Lillian Stokes	Tamara	Brian Toole	Unspoken Requests
Bill & Mary Ann Vignola	Colleen Williamson	Lurie Albritton	Kristin Biel	Eileen Bogo
Hazel Bradshaw	Kitty Bryant	Geraldean Caldwell	Jean Chamberlin	David
Debbie Cole	Don Collins	Della Cope	Kim Covey	Teresa Crocker
Rebecca de Paris	Anita Desmond	Edith Dockery's niece, Charlotte	Kim Dozier	Elaina
Maxine Farmer	Eddie Gardiner	Dr. Anne Garrett	Jay Gibson	Grady Gordon
Peyton Gully	Zelda Hanson	Marlon Harris	Jean & Joan	Jimmy
Martha & "Whitey" Marcum	Gary McCullough	Butch McGaha	Catherine Meeker	Phil Meeker
Claud Messer	Debbie Mills	Stuart Monaghan	Rev. Jimmy Morris	Kitzi Murphy
Jim Murtaugh	Karen Neely	Janet Nelson	Phil Newport	Gene Peebles
Roy & Sandy Penwell	Jerry Planchock	Pete Planchock	Mary Pliate	Jack Porter
Ken Prague	Sheila Price & Family	Karen Reed	Renee	Jeremy & Tasha Rhinehart
Jerri Jordan Richards	Rhonda Riley	Jetta Roark	Robin	Rudy
Ginger Rutland	Cynthia Sabetto	John Saxton	Molly Schick	Don Sean
Candie Sellers	Ron Sellers	Don & Wanda Shoemaker	Sarah Smart	Jeff Smith
Jane Spell	Carrie Spivey	Carolyn Strickland	Amanda Sutton	Rev. Wayne Sutton
Kent Taylor	Greg Tiffany	Sam Tiger	Clarita Velasco	Curran Welch
Susan Wendel	Brian Whaley	Janene Young	Administrative Board	All Travelers
Better Unity Among Christians	Bishop Leeland	Bones, Balance & Stretch Class	Our Children & Youth	Our Choir
Our Church Becoming True Servants	Clean Slate Coalition	Community Garden	Disaster Victims – Hurricanes, Fires in CA	
Food Pantry	Good Samaritan Clinic	Grace Circle	Haywood Pathways Center	Sandi Mehaffey Family
Haywood Street Congregation	Homeless People	In God's Creation Hiking Group	Maggie Valley Nursing Home & Rehab	
Manna Foodbank & Bi-Lo's	McCracken's Nursing Home	Men's Group	Missionaries	The Open Door
People Affected by Acts of Violence, Addiction & Mental Illness	People looking for Work	People needing Medical Help	Refugees	
Shepherd's Table	Shootings	Sisters in Christ	Our Staff	"Subject 2 Change" Christian Trio
Sunday School	United Methodist Church	World Events	Robert Griffin Family	Leslie Leatherman Family

Haywood County School Teachers and Students, Sunday School Teachers, Sunday School Subs, Children's Church Workers and also including Eli Bennett, Bill Chamberlin, Shelly Coker, Nathan Duncan, Eddie Ferguson, Emily Ferguson, Clarissa Fisher, Ellis Forga, Madison Herbert, Beverly Ketner, Cameron Lail, David Mackey, Wanda Messer, Jack Montgomery, Makayla & Makenzie Moore, Tyla Oellerich, Barb, Danny & Megan Planchock, Mark Rains, Shafin & Taylor Ross and Matthew Sutton.

Emergency & Medical Workers, Missionaries & their families including Amy Burke Family, Elizabeth Carmichael, Joe Conneen, Conneens' granddaughter - Summer, Jeff Mackey & the MV Police Dept., Massey Family, Jake Muirhead, Linda Palmer, Lynn & Mark Rains, Susan Snyder, Summer Conneen and Mitch Truesdale.

Our Country, Government, Service men, women & their families including Melissa Boris, Jesse Brestle, Amanda Bryson, Joshua Cruse, Andrew Davis, Melissa & Seth Gardiner, Christopher & Michael Garrand, Kathryn Boris Gance, Clayton Hardy, Samuel Hunter, Ian Hutton, Makenzie Moore, Michael Morris, Kane Pinkston, Joe Stroupe, Luke Turner, Camille Tyler, Michael Woodard, 211th Military Police Company, Prisoners of War, Those Injured & MIA.

Those in Nursing Homes including Judi Jenkins → Autumn Care; Sally Ketner → The Brian Center; Billy & Georgia Butler → The Crossings at Reynolds Mountain; Shirley & Tom Mann, Wanda Winecoff → Haywood Lodge; Hattie Sue Bonham, Mary Ann Hall, Lady Hughes, Way Mease, Doris Plott, Mathias Serwas, Myrtle Sutton, Sarah Sutton → Maggie Valley Nursing & Rehab; Gail Pace → Silver Bluff; Edith Dockery → Spicewood; Jane Beaver → Tore's Home and Martha Lee.

Those who are Homebound including Tom Bennett, Claude Caldwell, Joseph Cullen, Willard Dockery, Helen & Joe Duke, Lillian Figueroa, Linda Grasty, Zelda Hanson, Delia Hollingsworth, Paul Mehaffey, Shirley Moody, Hilda Palmer, The Pickens Family, Doug Ramsey, Linda Rondecald, Joel Setzer, Maureen Shaw, Sue Shepherd, David Stroud, Bill & Irene Sutton, Terri Waddell and Jackie Wicks.

Just a reminder that Pastor Ann's cell number is 828-505-6073. You can call or text her at that number. If you have an emergency, she is available 24/7.

Service & Missions, Announcements Update



Some of the events happening at Lake Junaluska for December are:

Balsam Range Art of Music Festival

When: November 30 – December 1

Where: Lake Junaluska Conference Center

Category: Join the award-winning bluegrass group Balsam Range as they perform alongside friends for a two-day festival featuring some of the top bluegrass and acoustic musicians in the nation.

Appalachian Christmas

When: December 6-9

Where: Lake Junaluska Conference Center

Category: Awaken the spirit of Christmas through storytelling, festive live music, hearty meals and local artistry. Festivities include Handel’s *Messiah*(12/7), featuring the Lake Junaluska Singers, a concert with Appalachian flair; the Lake Junaluska Singers Christmas concert (12/8) and the Appalachian Christmas Craft Show, which showcases the work of dozens of local artisans.

2019 Winter Youth Retreats

When: December 29 – January 1

Where: Lake Junaluska Conference Center

Category: Combine adventure and spiritual growth. Enjoy energized worship with great bands. Groups can choose to ski, zipline or do a mission project during the day.

We have an “AA” Group Meeting every Saturday evening in the Grace Classroom at 7:00 pm.

We have **Children’s Church** here at Maggie Valley UMC. **Our Children’s Church** starts after the children’s sermon. **We welcome our visitors** to take advantage of these services.

We will have our “Hanging of the Greens” Service on Sunday, December 2nd during our Worship Service at 11:00 am.

There will be a short Administrative Board Meeting and Trustees Meeting after the 11:00 am Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall.



Service & Missions, Announcements Update (Continued)



"Subject 2 Change" Christian Trio will present "Christmas Voices in the Valley" at our church tonight at 6:30 pm. Please bring a friend and enjoy Christmas through song.

Our Church Food Pantry operates on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:00 am until noon. We are asking that everyone in the congregation **bring PEANUT BUTTER this month.** Personal hygiene items are appreciated also. Thank you for helping! **We will NOT have our Food Pantry on Monday, December 24th and December 31st.** We will be open on **Wednesday, December 26th.**

If you are interested in helping us out going to get food from **Manna Foodbank in Asheville at 10:30 am on Thursdays** or help putting the food up **when it arrives at 1:00 pm on Thursdays,** please see

Erma or Renee. We also need help in collecting the food **on Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays at 11:00 am from BI-LO's in Waynesville.**

The Shepherd's Table meal is at MVUMC Fellowship Hall every Monday from 5:30 pm until 7:00 pm. We serve families, seniors and singles in need of a good meal and fellowship. If you would like to help, call the church office. **We will NOT have Shepherd's Table on Monday, December 24th or December 31st.**

Staff Meetings are held every Tuesday at 10:00 am.

We will wrap the food boxes for our Christmas Families on Tuesday, December 4th at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Anyone that can help that day, please bring scissors and tape. **We will also pack the food boxes on Friday, December 7th at 10:00 am.**

Please remember while scheduling activities at the church, we clean the church every Wednesday morning from 7:00 am until noon.

MVUMC Volunteers are needed to work at the **OPEN DOOR** on **Wednesday, December 5th.** Volunteers are needed from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm to prepare and cook the meal and from 11:15 am to 1:30 pm to serve and clean up. Please sign up in the foyer.

We will be decorating our Fellowship Hall for Christmas on Wednesday, December 5th at 6:30 pm. Nothing gets you in the Christmas spirit as listening to Christmas music and decorating our church with friends. It won't take long if everyone could help for about an hour. **PLEASE COME!!**



Pastor Ann's Bible Study meets on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm in the Grace Classroom. Everyone is welcome. **We will NOT have Pastor Ann's Bible Study on Wednesday, December 19th or December 26th due to the Christmas Holidays.**

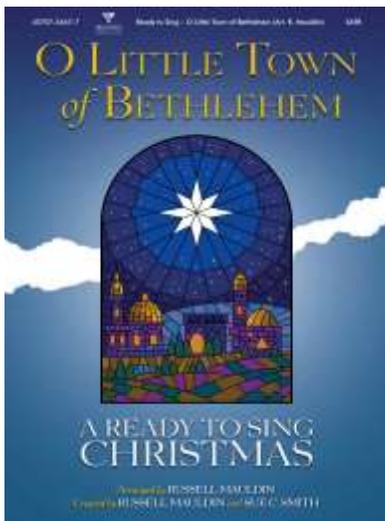
Our Bones, Balance and Strength Class meets on Thursdays at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Cost is \$4.00 per person. Anyone can come and participate.

The Men's Group will meet on Thursday, December 6th at 5:30 pm at Sagebrush Restaurant. All men are invited to come!!

Service & Missions, Announcements Update (Continued)

Bakers needed for cookies/brownies for the JVE Christmas Party on December 8th. If you can help out by baking a couple of dozen (NO NUTS please), please call Barb Planchock at 828-400-3144. Your goodies need to be brought to the church on Friday, Dec. 7th.

Workers helping with the JVE Christmas Party need to be at the church at 10:00 am on Saturday, December 8th.



We will have Communion Sunday on December 9th.

Our "Blessings of the Animals at the Manger" Service will be Sunday afternoon, December 9th at 3:00 pm. Bring your pet so that Pastor Ann can bless it. There will be music and treats for humans and animals alike!

The "Grace Circle" and "Sisters in Christ" Groups will have their Christmas Party at Rendezvous Restaurant at 6:30 pm on Saturday, December 15th. All women are invited to attend for great fellowship and Christmas cheer.

The Choir Christmas Cantata entitled "O Little Town Of Bethlehem" arranged by Russell Mauldin will be presented on Sunday, December 16th at 6:30 pm. Refreshments will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

"The Longest Night" Service will take place on Friday, December 21st at 6:00 pm. This service is for everyone but especially for those that are grieving.

We will have our Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 pm on Monday, December 24th with Communion and Candlelight.

The Church Office will be closed Monday, December 24th through Wednesday, December 26th.

We will NOT have the Kindred Spirits Prayer Group on Wednesday, December 26th.



From Ann Watts, Treasurer's Report



Monthly Financial Report

September	
Needed for Budget Monthly	\$22,025.88
Received for Budget	\$22,944.19
Over for the month	\$ 918.31
Over for the year	\$ 7,299.72

Average attendance for month of September – 151

October	
Needed for Budget Monthly	\$22,025.88
Received for Budget	\$18,066.44
Deficit for the month	\$ 3,959.44
Over for the year	\$ 3,340.28

Average attendance for month of October - 113

From Ken Brown, Administrative Board Chairperson

“Advent”

Isaiah 9:6-7 (NIV)

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.”

Thanksgiving, a Thursday set aside for, as the holiday’s name proclaims, giving thanks. Families and friends gather around the dinner table in fellowship and love. Traditionally, Thanksgiving’s end has signaled the beginning of the Christmas season, marked by, or should I say marred by, BLACK FRIDAY!!! Through every imaginable medium, we are barraged for weeks about the amazing price reductions available during this year’s incarnation of Black Friday. The advertising onslaught whips holiday shoppers into a frothing frenzy of anticipation. We wait in line for hours outside the closed doors of our favorite retailers in the hope of beating our neighbors to the best bargains. We push, shove, run, grab and otherwise convulse through the stores seeking the reward of this year’s hottest doodad, gizmo or thingamabob. Some of us even manage to make headlines. **“Black Friday - Neighbors Brawl at Wal*Mart!”** Might these be the same people gathered in love and fellowship mere hours ago?

Santa’s annual visit is undeniably awesome; our gift giving symbolizing the Magi’s gifts to the Christ Child. Why not save a few bucks in the process? It is a compelling argument. But, consider for a moment, how much focus do we give secular commercialism during the Christmas season? How might our world be different if the same frenzied anticipation was directed instead towards Jesus Christ whose birth we celebrate? Advent’s four weeks exalting the virtues of hope, love, joy and peace, provides a framework for shifting our focus to our coming Messiah.

Recently, Beth and I were blessed by an unusual vacation. We originally planned to spend a week in Orlando thanks to Beth’s Mom offering us her timeshare situated a short distance from Disney. A few weeks prior to our departure, Beth received a call from one of her long-time photography customers in need of updated photos of their bed and breakfast situated in Marion, South Carolina. Appending a jaunt to Marion, SC onto our route home from Orlando made the most logistical sense and created another opportunity. There were two days separating our departure from Orlando and the bed and breakfast’s availability. Having friends in the Savannah area, we quickly arranged for accommodations on Tybee Island, GA just outside of Savannah. Our itinerary was set.

In the event you are expecting to learn of our complicated plans going frustratingly awry, bearing an inglorious resemblance to a made-for-TV-movie akin to “Planes, Trains and Automobiles,” they did not. The multi-stop vacation was amazingly insightful. While making our way through Florida, Georgia and South Carolina, I found myself thinking of how Advent’s virtues can be identified most anywhere, most anytime.

At NASA, we saw hope. Several astronauts have given voice through the years regarding the view of Earth from outer space. Consistently, they speak of overwhelming peace and beauty at the sight. From space, man’s inhumanity to man cannot be seen and is in fact, unfathomable. Our island oasis, within God’s creation situated among the heavens, is awe inspiring. It is impossible to see photos of the “Earth-rise” from the lunar surface and not experience hope also rising. Eternal hope was born on Christmas day.

On Tybee Island, we saw Love. The Meeker family lives on Wilmington Island between Savannah and Tybee. Rev. Andy Meeker presided at our wedding 20 years ago. We have stayed in touch with him and his wife Jerilyn, watching their children become young adults. There is a love shared between us that has transcended time and

From Ken Brown, Administrative Board Chairperson (continued)

geography. God’s Love is also easily found walking or riding bikes along Tybee’s beach. In the off-season of November, the beach is quiet allowing the waves’ undisturbed melody to resonate deep within our souls, one of God’s many love songs. The ultimate display of God’s undying love for us was born on Christmas day.

At Walt Disney World, we saw Joy. Truth be told, we also felt joy! Disney is a magical place regardless of your age. Disney envelops their guests with an imaginative ingenuity inspiring a joy experienced by young and old. These two aging adults, for a moment, invited yesterday’s childlike naïveté to come back for a visit and a playful romp through the parks. Disney manufactures a bit of joy for the price of a ticket. Unbridled joy was born on Christmas day. This ticket is yours for the asking.

At “The Grove” bed and breakfast, we saw peace. Although we were at The Grove technically to work, peace was prevalent. The Grove is a combination museum and B&B. Built in 1895, the home is an “Eastlake” styled mansion containing mostly period-correct furnishings. The B&B’s innkeepers are Ann and Denley Caughman. Ann essentially runs the inn and is a delightful person. Denley fills a role more like museum curator. He is a retired Baptist minister, an historian and operates a joinery on property. It is in the joinery where Denley handcrafts period-specific furniture honoring old-world style and technique. This small space is itself peaceful even though equipped for work. The joinery’s tools are all cordless, so to speak. One of Denley’s vintage wood planes dates from early in the 19th century. Denley reverently held the wood plane proclaiming, “Should Jesus walk through the door right now, he would be instantly familiar with this particular tool. It had changed little since his time.” The simple utility of the shop, accompanied by Denley’s narration regarding each tool’s function, imbued a peace borrowed from another age. It was perfect peace born on Christmas day.

May the eternal hope, undying love, unbridled joy, and perfect peace of Christ Jesus be with you in this Advent season and throughout each day, anywhere and anytime. Merry Christmas!!

Luke 2:10-11 (NIV)

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.”

P.S. Denley has also built a few wooden caskets. He keeps a simple portfolio of the work that has come from The Grove’s joinery. Perhaps by coincidence, but probably by design, on a page opposing a beautifully handcrafted casket, can be seen the offer, “Do you have a relationship with Jesus? Ask me about Him.” <https://grovebandb.com/>

An Inscription found in an old cathedral of Lubeck, Germany

Thus speaketh Christ our Lord to us:

“Ye call me Master, and obey me not; Ye call me Light, and see me not;
 Ye call me Way, and walk me not; Ye call me Life, and desire me not;
 Ye call me Wise, and follow me not; Ye call me Fair, and love me not;
 Ye call me Rich, and ask me not; Ye call me Eternal, and seek me not;
 Ye call me Gracious, and trust me not; Ye call me Noble, and serve me not;
 Ye call me Mighty, and honor me not; Ye call me Just, and fear me not;
 If I condemn you, blame me not.”

Witness Corner by Bea Hawkins

"The Expression of Faith"

(Taken from The Bible in One Year; InTouch.org)

If you made a request of God and then time passed without results, it is understandable you might start wondering if He ever heard you at all. Do you remember thinking, *"What happened, Lord? You said that if I asked in faith, You would do it. Didn't You hear me?"*

Stop to consider this questions: Can you think of a time you brought a petition to the Lord and it apparently went unanswered? What was the situation? What did you pray about it? What did you say to others about it? What did you do about it?

I believe one of the most common reasons we experience a crisis of faith is that our words and our attitude get out of line with each other. We tell ourselves that we are praying to the heavenly Father, seeking His will, and requesting His intervention, but what we're really doing is just complaining to Him.

We say, "Lord, I really messed this up" or "I don't deserve this." We might pray, "How did this happen?" Or perhaps we even cry, "How did You let this happen?" We moan about the situation, reveling in every ounce of anguish, and then petition God to fix it. Is this a prayer that honors God?

In Mark 11:24, Jesus explains that if we ask for something, we should believe in our hearts that it has already been granted. This level of faith is found not in our whines but in our praises. God absolutely wants us to cry out to Him and to lay our petitions at His feet (1 Peter 5:7). But we must be careful to do so in a way that focuses on God's glory -- not our own.



Mark 11:20-24 (NIV)

"In the morning, as they went along, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots. Peter remembered and said to Jesus, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered!" "Have faith in God," Jesus answered. "Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."

Birthdays & Anniversaries

HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

1	David Frank	21	Mari Conneen
1	Amberly McNally	21	Christopher Nelson
2	Natalie Roth	21	Charles Rabjohns
3	Bobbie Hintzman	22	Bob Wendel
5	Sara Bennett	23	Kenny Dotson
5	Seth Rogers	25	Ann Best
5	Ben Yocom	25	Fred Painter
9	Diana Duclos	26	Kayla Campbell
9	Susan Snyder	26	Ann Watts
13	Penny Clouse	27	Natalie Hawkins
13	Vie Majorana	27	Beverly Ketner
13	Herman Oellerich	27	Jane Spell
15	Ann Ward	28	Jane Beaver
16	Beverly Truesdale	30	Pam Cherry
17	Justin Dotson	30	Joanne Lowder
18	Gene Johnson	31	Katie Griffin
19	Carolyn Strickland	31	William Messer
20	Bea Hawkins	31	Jeff Williamson

HAPPY DECEMBER ANNIVERSARY!

12	Lynda & Pat Bennett (1993)
12	Sharon & Darryl Ross
13	Stacey & Richard Boris (1980)
16	Joy & Don Bennett (1993)
19	Betty & Charles Rabjohns (2015)
21	Beverly & Mitch Truesdale (1974)
21	Charlotte & Jason Rogers
28	Della & David Reeves



We are asking the congregation to send cards or letters to certain college and away students each month. This month we are remembering Danny and Megan Planchock. Their addresses are:



**Danny Planchock
c/o NGU
Georgia Room 3
7801 North Tigerville Road
Tigerville, SC 29688**

**Megan Planchock
c/o NCSSM
Box L120
1219 Broad Street
Durham, NC 27705**

Thank-you's

Dear Maggie valley UMC,

Lillianne and I would like to thank the Maggie valley UMC's In God's Creation Hiking Group leaders: Judi, Beth, Carolyn, JP, Clarissa, and Barb for organizing and leading six amazing hikes to enjoy these majestic mountains in and around Western Carolina. We had a wonderful time, walked some beautiful trails, experienced many powerful waterfalls, spectacular views and especially enjoyed the fellowship of our church friends. We hope they again will take the time and effort to lead us in one of God's Creation, these beautiful mountains.

Thank You.

Bill and Lillianne Chamberlin

Dear Maggie valley UMC,

On behalf of Haywood Pathways Center, its Board and staff, we would like to thank you for your generous donation of \$85.00. Financial gifts sustain us as we work toward breaking the cycles of homelessness by providing shelter, food and case management services to our residents. These critical programs could not be developed and maintained without assistance and support from generous people like you in our community. The need is great, and your prayers and support are vital to our success. Also, thank you so much for giving me time to share with you all about Pathways!

Thank you for your love and support,
Mandy Haithcox, Executive Director

Dear Renee and church family,

I've really enjoyed the newsletter each month! I'm so thankful for your kind love in action! Because it's real and evident in all that you all do for others! Please let pastor Ann know that I enjoyed her thoughts in the last letter! I feel like I only contact you when I'm having a hard time but want you to know that I pray for all of you and your ministry daily! I believe with all my heart that God is blessing you and expect many more blessings from the Lord! I called today because I'm going through some of the hardest things I've had to face and need prayer! If you can spare a box of food today when the precious couple brings our meal.. you have no idea how much it would help us right now! Also, please let me know how I can give that I can give a Thanksgiving meal to my son because it's getting harder each day for me to do much physically... And I'm having to see more doctors over the next few weeks. I'm thankful that God gave me the honor of knowing you all !! I'm thankful that God has blessed so many people through your " love in action" You are loved!

Praying Always!

Sincerely, Dave n Son

"Respect, Honor, and Truth are most important in life!"

To my church family and friends,

I would like to express my gratitude for the prayers, the many cards, flowers and visits! You have shown kindness and compassion which is the true meaning of Christian service. I look forward to coming back to church and being with my church family and friends.

With love,

Robena Russell

Maggie Valley UMC Worship Service 11:00 am/Sunday School 9:45 am & 10:00 am

4192 Soco Road

Maggie Valley, NC 28751

Office Phone (828) 926-8036

Fax (828) 926-3932

renee@maggieumc.org

Rev. Ann Duncan, Rev. Erma Bond, Pastors

Renee Mackey, Pianist/Choir Director/Administrative Assistant

Janice Rogers, Organist

"Knowing Christ, Growing Faith, Serving Others"

Maggie Valley United Methodist Church

"LOVE IN ACTION" Newsletter

4192 Soco Rd

Maggie Valley, NC 28751

On the web at www.maggieumc.org

