



Love in Action

The Newsletter of Maggie Valley United Methodist Church

Volume 12, Issue 1



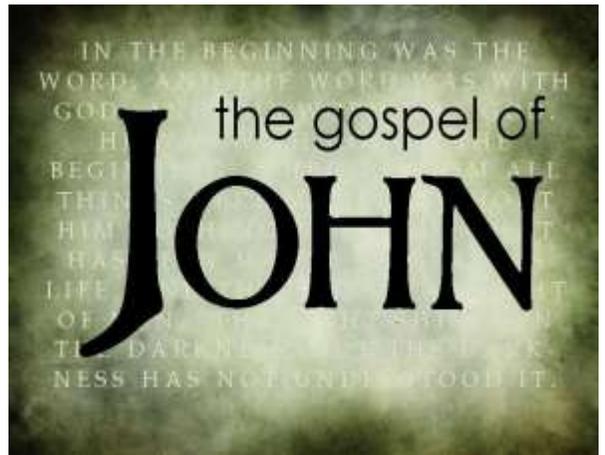
January, 2019

From Pastor Ann

Greetings Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In 2019, throughout this winter, into the season of Lent and to Easter, we will read and study the Gospel of John. The study and sermon series will explore Jesus Christ as portrayed by John and how we are called to respond to Jesus Christ's life and ministry.

The Gospel According to John differs considerably from the synoptic gospels: Matthew, Mark, and Luke. John does not include a genealogy of Jesus. Instead, John declares that Jesus was present at the creation of the world. John quotes only a few times from the Old Testament, but has the most allusions to the Old Testament. The other three Gospels show Jesus' ministry taking place in one year with one visit to Jerusalem; John has a three-year ministry with three Passovers in Jerusalem.



Most scholars believe that John was the last of the four Gospels written, not written until about eighty to one hundred years after the life of Jesus. Of the total book, 93% of the material is found only in the Gospel of John. While the last of the four Gospels written, John has always been accepted as an authentic and apostolic testimony about Jesus. At Christmas, Lent, and Easter John is the most used Gospel.

The purpose of John's Gospel is clear: "For God so loved the world that God gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16) and "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10).

And as John wrote at the end of his narrative: "Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these signs are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (20:30-31).

I encourage you to invite your neighbors and friends to join you for this journey towards belief. The Gospel of John is a wonderful way to introduce people to Jesus Christ. You are also invited to further your discipleship by reading the Scripture verses upon which the sermons will be based each week, as well as read the whole of the Gospel. I have a weekly timeline for reading John chronologically that you may request. Plus, you may pick up a copy of the Gospel at the church in Eugene Peterson's *The Message* version.

I look forward to reading, studying, and worshipping with you and the Maggie Valley community in 2019. I pray our faith might deepen and our discipleship strengthen as we embrace John's Gospel in the new year.

Blessings,
Pastor Ann

From Pastor Erma



A new year is before us and we will be faced with making many choices, some will be good choices and some not so good. We live in a country where we are free to make choices and we serve a God who allows us to make choices. The word "choice" has two alternatives.

When Joshua asked the Israelites to "choose this day whom you will serve"; the choice he gave them was between God and the false god Baal. However, before giving them a chance to respond, he told them what his choice was: "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." (Joshua 24:13) Throughout the entire Bible choices are offered and throughout our lives we are faced with making so many choices.

The great God that we serve gives us the freedom to make our own choices, but He gives us enough information to make wise choices. In our country, we have so many laws---truth in lending, labeling laws and others for our protection--- that when we apply for a loan, or buy something, we are given so much information about what we are thinking of buying.

This information helps us make intelligent choices. God has also given us information about Himself which includes His holiness, man's sinfulness, God's provision for our sinfulness, Jesus Christ and many promises about what will happen if we accept these promises and what will happen if we don't. In Galatians 6: 6-8, we are told: "Let him who is taught the word share all good things with him who teaches. Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life."

We all know that if we make the wrong choices, we will pay the consequences and if we make the right choices, we will receive the benefits. So, during this coming year, may we all consider our choices wisely, just as Joshua did when he said, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." No matter what we face this year, may we turn to God first and our choices will be easier.

In Christ's Service,
Erma

P.S. I pray that each of you will have a healthy and happy New Year as we choose to serve a great God who helps us make wise choices.

Service & Missions, Announcements Update

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



WCU Mountain Dulcimer U Winter Weekend

When: From Jan 03, 2019 to Jan 06, 2019

Where: Lake Junaluska

Category: Arts and Worship, Packages

Dulcimer U continues its long-standing tradition of giving students the absolute best educational experience available for the mountain dulcimer. Unlike many festivals around the country, Dulcimer U is not about the performers, it's about you...the student.

Martin Luther King Jr Prayer Breakfast

When: January 21, 2019 8:00 AM

Where: Lambuth Inn Dining Room

Category: Social Justice Ministries, Youth and Young Adult, Arts and Worship - A prayer breakfast is being held in the dining room at Lambuth Inn on January 21, 2019 to commemorate Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. It begins at 8 a.m. and is led by keynote speaker Rev. Walter Bryson with special music by Ms. Cynthia McNeil. Tickets are \$17 adults, \$10 college students and \$8 youth/children (ages 8 and under free). Call Tammy McDowell at 828-215-0296 to buy tickets.

There will NOT be any activities at the church on Monday, December 31st through Wednesday, January 2nd due to the holidays. The Church Office will also be closed.



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

MVUMC Volunteers are needed to work at the **OPEN DOOR** on **Wednesday, January 2nd and January 30th**. 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.

Our Church Food Pantry operates on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:00 am until noon. We are asking that everyone in the congregation **bring BARS OF SOAP this month.** Personal hygiene items are appreciated also. Thank you for helping! **THE FOOD PANTRY WILL BE CLOSED UNTIL WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2nd.**

Pastor Ann's Bible Study will be taking a break for the month of January. More information to come about February plans.

The Bones, Balance and Strength Class meets on Thursdays at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to participate. **We will NOT have the class on Thursday, January 4th due to the holidays.**

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 call the office. We also need help in collecting the food **on Mondays and Fridays at 11:00 am from BI-LO's in Waynesville.**

Service & Missions, Announcements Update (Continued)

The UMW Grace Circle meeting will NOT meet this month. We will see you next month!

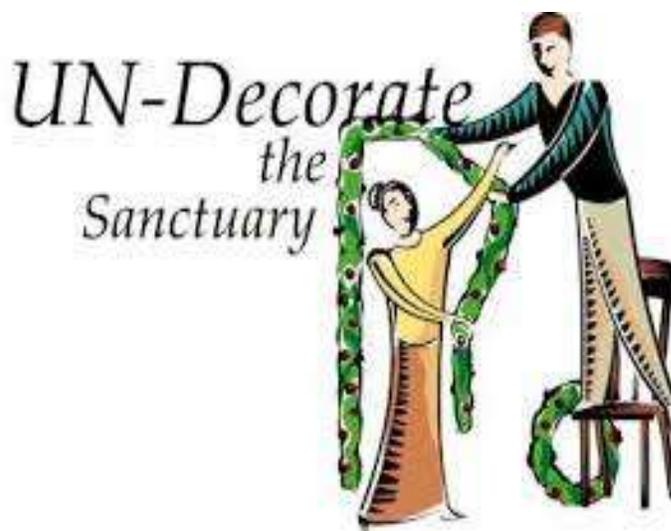
We have an "AA" Group Meeting every Saturday evening in the Grace Classroom at 7:00 pm.

Communion Sunday will be January 6th. We have a **Nursery and Children's Church** here at Maggie Valley UMC. **Our nursery** accommodates ages 0 to 3-year olds. **Our Children's Church** which starts after the children's sermon is for 4 & 5-year olds. **We welcome our visitors** to take advantage of these services.

The Shepherd's Table meal is at MVUMC Fellowship Hall every Monday from 5:30 pm until 6:30 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 or contact Erma. **THE SHEPHERD'S TABLE WILL RESUME ON MONDAY, JANUARY 7TH.**

The Maggie Valley Lions Club thanks you for giving any unused and unneeded eyeglasses, hearing aids and cell phones to the Lions to be recycled for use by needy individuals here in NC, the US and across the world. Please continue to do so. Your MV Lions collection box is located by the door that Pastor Erma stands.

Please, we need your help!! We will be "un-decorating" the church on Wednesday, January 9th at 6:00 pm. Pizza will be provided. We will also be taking down the nativity scene from outside at 1:00 pm on Monday, January 7th.



Our first regular Administrative Board Meeting of the year will be Tuesday, January 15th at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

"Sisters in Christ" will meet on Tuesday, January 22nd at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will have a "Potluck" supper. Bring whatever you like. We need to collect at least 20 white towels for our mission this month.

Shoebboxes!! This year we plan to send shoeboxes to the children of Armenia through Project Agape! We could use your help collecting items for these boxes! Needed especially for January: pencil sharpeners or \$5.00 per shoebox for postage.

**"SO MANY PEOPLE GO UNNOTICED AND UNAPPRECIATED
BECAUSE NO ONE HAS EVER TAKEN TIME WITH THEM
AND ADMIRERD THEIR UNIQUENESS."**

-JOHN POWELL

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	Bob Briggs	Bryan	Brian Burr
Greg Carpenter	Mary Kay Carpenter	Chrystal Carver	Nita Childers	Gia Clouse
Judy Coker	Jerri Collins	Mari Conneen	Suzanne Corwin	Kitty Crain
Angie Davenport	Joanie Devine	Kirk Duclos	Judi Ferris	Frances
Frank	Bonnie & Larry Germaine	Bill Glave	Harold Gray	Katie Griffin
Hadley	Bea Hawkins & Son	Debbie Hembree's father, John	Mason Herbert	Michael Hinebaugh
Claude Jermain	Jocelyn	Connie Jones	Barri Kelly	Frank Lipe
Cheryl & Destiny Little	Candy Lott	Parker Lynn	Marjorie	Denise McCullough
Sandra Morris	Shelda Muirhead	Steve Muse	Anne Neely	Lynn & Mark Rains
Lynn Rains' Mother, Margie	Kelly Reed	Skylar Rhinehart	Ruby Rogers	Robena Russell
Robert Setzer	Janie Sorrells	Lillian Stokes	Brian Toole	Unspoken Requests
Vicky @Polly's Florist	Bill & Mary Ann Vignola	Colleen Williamson	Lurie Albritton	Kristin Biel
Eileen Bogo	Goyena Boucher	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
Shirley Moody	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
Beth Reece	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	Karen 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	Food Pantry
Good Samaritan Clinic	Grace Circle	Haywood Pathways Center	Haywood Street Congregation	Homeless People
In God's Creation Hiking Group	Maggie Valley Nursing Home & Rehab	The Open Door	Manna Foodbank & Bi-Lo's	McCracken's Nursing Ho
Men's Group	Missionaries	Refugees	People Affected by Acts of Violence, Addiction & Mental Illness	Shepherd's Table
People looking for Work	People needing Medical Help	Our Staff	Schofields Ministries – MOM Program	Sunday School
Shootings	Sisters in Christ	Walter Cleaveland Family	"Subject 2 Change" Christian Trio	Wanda Winecoff Family
United Methodist Church	World Events		Ethel Matney Family	
Patty & Andy's daughter and family passed away				

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 → Haywood Lodge; Hattie Sue Bonham, Mary Ann Hall, Lady Hughes, Mathias Serwas, Myrtle Sutton, Sarah Sutton → Maggie Valley Nursing & Rehab; Edith Dockery, Gail Pace → Silver Bluff; Jane Beaver → Tore's Home and Martha Lee.

Those who are Homebound including Tom Bennett, Claude Caldwell, Joseph Cullen, Stephen & Wanda Deutsch, Willard Dockery, Helen & Joe Duke, Lillian Figueroa, Linda Grasty, Zelda Hanson, Delia Hollingsworth, Paul Mehaffey, Shirley Moody, John Murray, Hilda Palmer, The Pickens Family, Doug Ramsey, Linda Rondecial, Joel Setzer, Maureen Shaw, Sue Shepherd, David Stroud, William & 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.

From Ken Brown, Administrative Board Chairperson

"Google"

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Each New Year seems to come and go more quickly than the year prior. And, with the passing of a year, we frequently find ourselves in retrospection. One event of 2018 was Google's 20th birthday; a milestone seeming hardly possible, the time having passed so quickly. Consider, today's 20-year-old young adults do not know of life without the ability to Google the answer to any question, almost as quickly as their desire to know arises. I postulate, Google's ubiquitous nature might be impairing our sense of wonder, our own application of logic and reason. We no longer have the need to noodle questions along life's path, we simply ask Google.



What need-to-know topics do people ask Google about? Once again, there is no need to wonder. Like so many questions, we can ask Google what people are Googling, which seems something of an irony. According to itself, 2018's top ten trending Google searches in the U.S. were:

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| 1) World Cup | 2) Hurricane Florence | 3) Mac Miller | 4) Kate Spade |
| 5) Anthony Bourdain | 6) Black Panther | 7) Mega Millions Results | 8) Stan Lee |
| 9) Demi Lovato | 10) Election Results | | |

Celebrities, sports, entertainment, windfall riches, disasters and elections. It could be argued disasters and elections warrant some attention. Of the five "celebrities," four I had never heard of. What we in the U.S. collectively found to be intellectually stimulating in 2018 is a bit frightening. Notably absent from Google's top ten searches is anything resembling a curiosity for knowing about spiritual topics.

Regardless of Google's statistics, there are numerous Christian web sites. BibleGateway.com is a web property containing 219 different translations of the Bible ranging from the American Standard Version to Young's Literal Translation and everything in between. It also offers Bible translations in 72 different languages. Using Bible Gateway, you can search any Bible version, for any Bible verse, in any language. In 2018, the top three Bible verse searches were:

- | | | |
|--------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1) John 3:16 | 2) Jeremiah 29:11 | 3) Philippians 4:13 |
|--------------|-------------------|---------------------|

Part of New Year tradition is resolving to make changes for the upcoming year. These three verses may help inspire your resolve. John 3:16 tells us believing will result in a life everlasting. Jeremiah 29:11 informs us God's plan includes giving us hope and a future. We are not required to bring a population to Google in search of Christian knowledge, thereby bending Google's usage patterns to a more spiritual nature. But, might a worthy resolution be introducing just one person to Christ, resulting in him or her

From Ken Brown, Administrative Board Chairperson (continued)

gaining hope, a future and everlasting life? For many, myself included, this is a daunting challenge. Philippians 4:13 tells us we can do all things through Jesus who gives us strength. Besides, your responsibility is merely the introduction, God will handle the rest.

About what are you intellectually curious? What do you Google?

Philippians 4:13 (NIV)

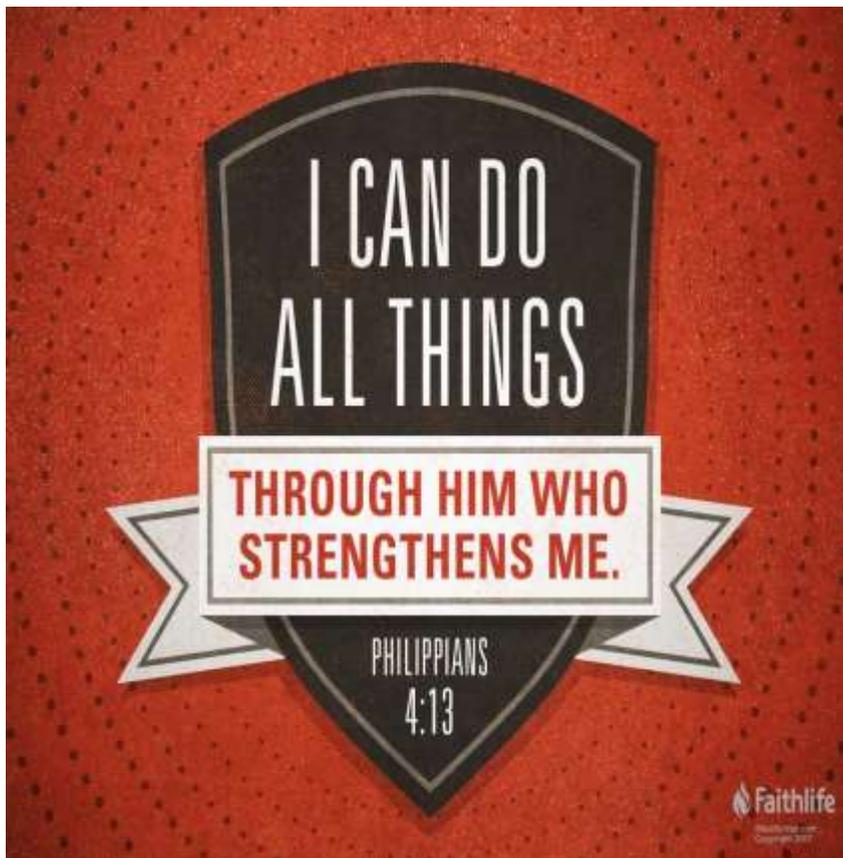
I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

Филипяни 4:13 (BULG - Bulgarian)

За всичко имам сила чрез Онзи, Който ме подкрепява.

Philippiens 4:13 (NEG1979 - French)

Je puis tout par celui qui me fortifie.



From Ann Watts, Treasurer’s Report



Treasurer Report

2018 Annual Budget Report

Needed for Annual Budget	\$264,310.56
Received for Budget	\$267,142.97
Over for the year	\$2,832.41
Actual Budget Expenses	\$274,054.71
Actual Budget Receipts	\$267,142.97
Actual Loss for the year	\$6,911.74

Average attendance for month of December - 98

“The Believer’s Highest Honor”

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

I’ll never forget the best introduction I’ve ever received as an invited speaker. The presenter simply said, “It is my great pleasure to introduce to you my brother, Charles Stanley, servant of the Most High God.” I couldn’t move from my seat for a few moments; I was so struck by this opening that glorified the Lord and identified my proper position.

The Word of God describes believers as ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:20), soldiers (2 Timothy 2:3), and saints (Ephesians 2:19). But the highest honor that we can receive is to be called servants of the Most High God. From the world’s perspective, those who die to self in order to follow the Lord may stand in last place – in reality, however, they are first in His kingdom (Matthew 20:16).

Sadly, service to God is often equated solely with what goes on at church. The preacher serves. The choir serves. The worker in the soup kitchen serves. But the guy pushing papers and the woman cleaning up others’ messes tend to be seen as simply doing their jobs. From the Father’s vantage point, though, work well done brings as much glory to His name as a song lifted in praise. (Colossians 3:23-24). So take heart – if you’re doing quality work and striving to make an impact on those around you, then you are serving God.

Service to the Lord is not about *what* we do, but rather *how well* we do all that the Lord has given us to accomplish (1 Peter 4:10). A good servant shares both Jesus Christ’s attitude of humility and His motivation to reach people with the love of God.



John 12:24-26 (NIV)

“Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.”

Thank you's

Dear MVUMC friends,

Thank you so much Rev. Duncan and your congregation for this generous and impactful gift to school kids in need. We know there is great need in Haywood County. In 2017-2018 with support like your congregation and the Rotary Club of Waynesville collecting, we helped provide more than 57,000 MANNA backpacks for kids. And averaged around 500 a week. Please share this with your congregation how humbled we are.

With much appreciation,
Chad Conaty, Manna Foodbank (November 7, 2018)

Dear MVUMC friends,

Thank you so much for this very generous donation to support kids in need in Haywood County via Manna backpacks for kids. Please extend our thanks to your congregation members. We are so grateful and this contribution will support hundreds of kids in need in Haywood County Schools.

With much appreciation,
Chad Conaty, Manna Foodbank (December 4, 2018)

Dear Rev. Duncan,

Thank you for your support in 2018. With your help, MANNA distributed 18.2 million pounds of food this past year. That equates to 41,000 meals today and every day of the year!

Best wishes to you and yours this Christmas season.
Judy Butler, Manna Foodbank (December 21, 2018)

Dear MVUMC,

Thank you for the Thanksgiving meal delivered to my mother, Ethel Matney. She sure enjoyed and was most appreciated.

Linda Matney

Pastor Ann, Renee and MVUMC,

Thank you so much! With sincerest thanks for your kindness and thoughtfulness. All you did for us and the meals are truly a blessing and most appreciated.

Linda & Ethel Matney

Thank you's (Continued)

I thank God for your caring, loving and giving hearts!! You've touched our lives in ways that cannot be put into words! Keep doing what you do! Keep the faith!! You'll find out one day just how much the Lord uses your willingness to help others! You are part of the foundation of "Christ!" Your actions DO change lives, gives hope and glorifies the Lord's Name!

Love,
Dave & Michael Pickens

To Renee,

Please thank everyone for the blessing and being "Love In Action." You All are a blessing!

Love and prayers always,
Dave & Michael Pickens

Dear Maggie Methodist,

Thank you all for sending Mother (Sarah Sutton @ Maggie Nursing Home) your church newsletter, etc and having her on your prayer list. She loves getting mail.

God Bless You All!
Linda Plott, daughter

Dear MVUMC,

Thank you for blessing the Foundation in 2018! We look forward to being in ministry with you throughout the new year! We are grateful for all of you and our partnership!

Merry Christmas!
United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina

**“A TEACHER WHO IS STEADFAST AND PERSISTENT
IN DAILY PRAYER, AND REVIVED AND
REFRESHED BY IT, WILL FIND THE STRENGTH
TO TRIUMPH OVER THE OBSTACLE OF IGNORANCE.”**

-UNKNOWN AUTHOR

Birthdays & Anniversaries



HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAYS!

2	John Burton	18	Steve Muse
4	Cody Campbell	19	Joseph Conneen
5	Steve Mehaffey	20	Bubba Kelley
6	Lovia Barefoot	22	Helen Duke
6	Jason Rogers	22	Juanne Herrold
7	Tyler Brosius	23	Jeremy Troxler
7	Tom Palmer	24	David Reeves
9	Linda Howell	25	Melinda Coker
10	Zara Moore	27	Shafin Ross
11	Alexia Trull	28	Don Bennett
13	Larry Butler	29	Sten Lundgren
13	Todd Carpenter	29	Cullen McKenney
13	Helen Davis	30	Laurie Bledsoe Morris
14	Lynda Bennett	30	Charlotte Rogers
14	Cam Walsh	31	Devan Messer
15	Betty Joe Beasley		

Happy January Anniversary!

12 Georgia & Billy Butler (2002)

We are asking the congregation to send cards or letters to certain college 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**

“Ordinary Begets Extraordinary”

The description of the Lay Leader from the UMC Discipleship Ministries is, “An effective lay leader functions as the primary representative and role model of Christian discipleship and faith lived out in the church and in daily life. The lay leader works with the pastor to fulfill the mission and vision of the congregation.” I would like to ask for your prayers this year as I work to fulfill this obligation. I look forward to being your Lay Leader.

In accepting this opportunity as your Lay Leader, I began thinking about my role and involvement in the church. Writing an article in the monthly newsletter seemed a good way to start and followed in the footsteps of our past lay leaders. But, what could I write about for twelve months? The number twelve has some relevance. Twelve Disciples! Therefore, I will be sharing what the Bible, and other materials, teach us about them.

This month I would like to introduce you to the twelve men that Jesus chose as his faithful followers, friends and future leaders of the church. These were ordinary men, men of little consequence, poor, imperfect, unqualified, yet He chose them. Peter, John, James, Matthew, Thomas, Judas Iscariot, Nathanael, Judas (son of James), Philip, Andrew, Simon and Thaddeus.

My hope is that as we learn about these ordinary men, we will find in them characteristics of ourselves. Knowing they were chosen from the “least of these” to become extraordinary men in their faith, following in faith and love of Jesus, we can find hope and trust in a heavenly Father who loves us so much he chose just twelve men to spread the gospel that now reaches around the world. The same love, faith and hope is still available to us. It is not old news, it is GOOD news.

The twelve disciples changed the world. There was nothing special or unique in their backgrounds or characters, they were as ordinary as you and me. Through the Holy Spirit and their faith, they became great men glorifying God, always.

As we begin the new year, 2019, we have hope and anticipation of what this year holds in store for us as disciples of Christ. Our ordinary church can make an impact in our community and do extraordinary things. I am excited to see how God will work through our church and our lives as we strive to glorify Him, always.

1 Corinthians 1:27-29

“But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him.”

Maggie Valley UMC Administrative Board - 2019

Lay-Leader	<i>Beth Brown</i>
Board Chairperson	Ken Brown
Vice-Chairperson	Lovia Barefoot
Secretary	Renee Mackey
Treasurer	<i>Colleen Williamson</i>
Financial Secretary	Renee Mackey
Membership Secretary	Shelly Coker
Records Officer	Renee Mackey
Staff-Parish Relations Committee (+ <i>Lay Leader</i>)	2019 – <i>Fred Painter, Lynn Rains</i> 2020 – <i>JP Smith, Dan Dry</i> 2021 - <i>Lovia Barefoot, Gail England</i>
Trustees	2019 – Rachel Dotson, Herman Oellerich 2020 – Mari Conneen , Larry Hepler 2021 - <i>Carol Hart, Ken Brown</i>
Committee on Lay Leadership (+ <i>Pastors & Lay Leader</i>)	2019 – Wanda Messer, Renee Mackey 2020 – Beverly Ketner, Shelly Coker 2021 - <i>Charles Rabjohns</i>
Finance Committee (+ <i>Pastors, Board Chair, SPR Chair, Conf. Rep, Trustee Rep. & Lay Leader</i>)	Cynthia Williams, <i>Beverly Ketner</i> <i>Colleen Williamson, Dwight Hart,</i> Retta Holland, Tom Barefoot (CO-CHAIR) , Debbie Sanders, Bill Chamberlin (CO-CHAIR)
United Methodist Women, President	Dottie Horton
Vice-President	Bonnie Blackketter
Christian Education Director	Wanda Messer
Web Site Administration	<i>Shelly Coker, Nancy Yocom</i>
Communications	Twila Medford
Communion/Altar Officers	Dottie Horton, Diana Duclos, Shelly Coker
Fellowship Hall Officer	Beth Brown
Annual Conference Delegate (2016-2019)	Tina Oellerich
Alternate	Shirley Saxton
Usher Coordinator	<i>Diana Duclos</i>
Bereavement	Bereavement Committee (<i>Shirley Saxton, chair</i>)
Scholarship Committee (+ <i>Pastors, Lay Leader, Admin. Board Chair.</i>)	Gene Saxton, Wanda Messer, Beverly Ketner, Emily Ferguson
Members at Large: (2019) Eddie Ferguson, Nan Smith (2020) Natalie Hawkins, Clarissa Fisher (2021) <i>Judi Ferris</i> , Mary Ann Vignola, Bill Vignola, <i>Barb Planchock</i>	

Those in new positions (not necessarily new to the Board) for this year are listed in italics.

Chairpersons in bold.

Leaving from the 2018 Administrative Board – **THANK YOU FOR SERVING!**
Ann Watts, Ron Miller, Pete Planchock, Cliff Peebles, Rob Gudger, Sandra Morris,
Barbara Bowser, Elise Allen, Edna Palmer, Jane Berrevoets, John Berrevoets, Ben Yocom

Old Folks' Corner by Denise McCullough

"New Year – Old Body"

Each January 1 is a milestone in our lives.

I look back through the old year and wonder at all the things I DID accomplish, could have done better and didn't achieve. I'm sorry to say my "did nots" far exceed my "dids."

"Did" is such a funny word. Those three letters pack a multitude of finished products, lying there in my memory as bright shining starts while the failures bounce around, bruising my ego and gnawing away at my self-esteem.



I have a pretty good idea about what caused those blank spaces on my calendar – they show "my lack of dependence on God's help." I'm a great one for flying out on my own, trying to achieve perfection by my own efforts, forgetting the fact that only with God's guidance can I accomplish miracles.

My body is bruised by the times I have fallen off the mountain of my self-esteem, when I could have Climbed to the top of the peak if I had only listened to the advice of my Holy Guide. Sherpa guides are renowned for the accuracy of their advice in knowing which handhold is safe to put weight on. One seldom hears of their clients being lost.

Our dependence on God for guidance is so important that we cannot function at the peak of our performances without Him. To go it alone is foolishness!! Those poor, wandering people who refuse to admit their weaknesses are the ones we must pray for. We cannot force our advice on them but we must not weary in our efforts.

It's very difficult to persevere in the face of so much indifference but all God asks of us is that we continue to pray for them, never admitting defeat in our battle with Satan. Always remember that God is more powerful than Satan and, if we ask for help, he will, in his good time, Answer.

If we believe in the Bible's teachings, we will believe in that fact.

"KNOWLEDGE IS THE ONE COMMODITY OF WHICH WE CAN NEVER HAVE A SURPLUS."

-UNKNOWN AUTHOR

Old Folks' Corner by Denise McCullough (continued)



"Will You Be Ready?"

How can you make your "Get Up and Go" go when your "Get Up and Go" went?

I know you've all heard that old adage all our life – and it's as true today as ever before. During these last long years, my "Go" is slower than in "Olden Times" – and as I age, it becomes more difficult to find hidden pockets of energy than before, even though we double up on our Vitamin B-12.

We all wish we could find an elixir that would cause us to be able to go to sleep early and wake up early too. I don't know why it seems important except that our former work ethic all our young, productive years called for us to get an early start each day so as to catch every opportunity for success available.

People who try to cram eighteen hours of work into eight hours of daylight often find that the daylight is gone and we've not nearly finished all our expectations.

Could it be that we place our expectations way out of reach of normal energies? I think we all "bite off more than we can chew" and spend part of our dwindling energy choking over the mouthful that's too big for our mouths. Why haven't we cultivated the habit of taking small bites of life at a time? Could it be that our ambitions are way ahead of our capabilities?

It's good to have confidence in our abilities but we should never "overestimate" our God-given talents. He never meant for our ambition to be greater than we can handle. If we insist on it, the first part of our lives will be sacrificed on the altar of success while the work we do to further God's Kingdom will be shoved aside because we are too tired.

How many times in our lives have we said "I just have too much to do to accept that request from the church workers." We don't weigh our work life with our God life. Too often the "God workers" are terribly overworked because no one had time to help. Their jobs came first, their after-jobs spent resting and relaxing so they could have enough energy for tomorrow's job.

What if there are no tomorrows for you? What if your last conversation was with a church worker asking you for your help? Your last remembrance was your refusal. Isn't that a terrible chance to take?

Many of us are going to be "called away" while we're so busy we can't find time to pray or say "Yes" to God!!

Think about it – Will you be immersed in your job when you're called? Frightening isn't it? It's not too late to change – Get Ready – GO!!

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

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