



Love in Action

The Newsletter of Maggie Valley United Methodist Church

Volume 16, Issue 7

July 2023

Before I shaped you in the womb, I knew all about you. Before you saw the light of day, I had holy plans for you. (Jeremiah 1:5, The Message)

Normally I try to focus these pastor's articles looking forward. I like to invite us to think about what is coming up and how God is calling us to be in the weeks ahead. But this month I can't stop thinking about the last 4 weeks of worship. They were holy, meaningful, good and needed times of being together with each other and with God. As we explored a couple "Heroes of the Faith," I felt God drawing me deeper into *THE* story of God's love for all — I hope you did too.

In the 4 weeks of looking at Ruth, Jeremiah, Esther and Elijah we contemplated not only the lives of these great people, but wondered what their lives said about God and how God wants to be with us and for us. On a couple of occasions I reminded us that the Bible is sparse with details about the heroes, but lavish with details of God. I think that means something for us. In part I think that means that life throughout all history and here today is less about us and more about God. Always God.

Consider the verse quoted above from Jeremiah 1:5. This verse tells us that God knew us before we were born. That God not only knew us, but had "holy plans" for us. While that absolutely means something for each of our lives — that we are worthy, enough for God, wanted by God, needed for God's kingdom-work, here and now — it also tells us about God's indefatigable creative energy. Eugene Peterson says, "[God] never, fatigued and unable to maintain the rigors of creativity, resorts to mass-producing copies. Each life is a fresh canvas on which he uses lines and colors, shades and lights, textures and proportions that he has never used before."

You are the unique way that God wants to love in the world. Don't get it wrong, you are needed and wanted and enough, but our job is not to give the world us, it's to give the world God and God's love. You have been made and equipped and called for this time, for this place. You are needed to show and invite others to live a life that starts from the center, where everything is changed because of God's great love for all.

You are the one that God says is enough for what God wants to do in the world. You are plenty for God and with God and through God.

It may feel safer or more comfortable to define ourselves as just a tiny little being, doing what we can. But Genesis 1 tells us we've been made in God's own image to reflect in the world. The Psalms tell us we are only slightly less than divine, so that we can tend to all creation. Jeremiah tells us we are exactly what God designed, created and cared for before we were even born. And we are needed.

God is with you. You. You, exactly as you are. Exactly as you are becoming. So go live with the boldness that you have been formed and fashioned by God. You are loving on God's behalf. You are exactly who is needed for such a time as this. And I thank God for you.

Grace & Peace, Pastor Cole

FROM BARB PLANCHOCK, ANNUAL CONFERENCE DELEGATE...

Western North Carolina Annual Conference Minutes June 15-18, 2023

Theme: Grace, Connection, Holiness

Thursday, June 15th Clergy Session was a closed session and, therefore, not recorded.

Friday, June 16th - GRACE As United Methodists, our faith is laid on a foundation of God's prevenient, justifying, and sanctifying grace. In her sermon, Rev. Dr. Candace Lewis, President-Dean of Gammon Theological Seminary, referenced the post-resurrection scripture of John 21: 1-19 (Jesus and the Miraculous Catch of Fish). In it, she noted that Simon Peter, who had denied Jesus three times, did what people do in times of personal failure, seasons of doubt, disappointment, grief, and loss: he returned to what was familiar. In Peter's case it was fishing. Rev. Dr. Lewis asked, "What is your familiar? What is it that you return to when things feel uncertain in your life?" It is in the ordinariness of life that Jesus reveals himself once again. Jesus still meets us in our places of our familiar — miracles still happen, our hope is renewed, our faith can be restored, love can be rekindled; and, as John Wesley noted, our hearts strangely warmed. You don't have to go looking for Jesus; open your heart and He comes to you. Listen to His voice. Jesus comes with instructions, insights, divine enablement. Just like the apostles casting their nets on the other side, Jesus requires our participation. When you recognize Jesus, this is when things begin to happen. She said, "Grace is abundantly poured out upon us when we're open to receive it. We've received with ease God's prevenient grace, our faith walk began with God's justifying grace, but the real work is in God's sanctifying grace. That's the grace where God is trying to perfect us." She noted that the United Methodist Church hasn't always been a place where all God's people have been welcomed. She exhorted everyone to "Do the work to make this church a beloved community. Do the work to make sure this is a church where all God's people can be welcomed together". In the text, Jesus asked Peter, "Do you love me more than these?" Rev. Dr. Lewis asked if you love Jesus more than your own positions, titles, accomplishments, our material things, privilege, and power, etc. If you do, Christ offers three ways to help God's people, "feed them at the table with connection, tend to them, care for them. We need to commit to welcoming people unconditionally.

Offerings: to be split between initiatives (1) to help create trauma responsive, healing centered faith communities in our Conference and (2) to build new churches in Ukraine following the war. Note: Offering at end of conference approximately \$50K.

Conference Plenary: Business Session

- Ken Howle, Executive Director of Lake Junaluska, noted that 2022 Lake Junaluska giving of over \$1,000,000 has resulted in preservation efforts of Stuart Auditorium — new HD screens and projectors, renovation of back wall, painting and concrete work. Additionally, Lake J invested \$250K in a Wi-fi upgrade. This year marks the 110th anniversary of Stuart Auditorium. It's believed that more clergy have been ordained here than in any place in the world.
- Effective 1/1/2023, Bishop Ken Carter Jr. became the full-time bishop of the WNCC.
- In the Historic Wesley Questions for Ordinands, two deacons and seven elders ordained. Bishop Carter, in his introduction noted that our doctrinal standards are our core; they are not changing. Our theological task is how we apply our doctrine in each generation. At the end of the presentation, Bishop Carter said that if you see someone in your church that has a "sparkle and a gift for ministry", encourage them to go into ministry. Each of these ordinands had such a conversation.

- Bible Study presented by Rev. Dr. Martyn Atkins, Former General Secretary and Conference President of the Methodist Church in Great Britain. The Great Commandment (Matthew 22: 36-40) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). He said, "In the Great Commandment, to keep one, you have to do both. You can't love God with all you are unless it involves loving your neighbor as yourself. And if you're not loving your neighbor as yourself, you cannot be loving God with all that you have. They are two wings on a bird and without either wing, the bird will not fly." In the Great Commission, Jesus said this is what I want you to be like, this is what you must be doing. We can't abandon the task of making disciples of Jesus Christ. A common key factor of both the Commandment and the Commission is neither of them give any ammunition to keep people out.
- The conference recognized 53 retiring pastors.

Saturday, June 17th - CONNECTION

Conference Plenary: Business Session

- No church will see an increase in their 2024 Apportionments.
- The conference voted to approve the 2024 Total Proposed Budget of \$14.5 million (a 6.67% decrease over the 2023 budget).
- Bishop Carter noted that we will not abandon any area or persons because of disaffiliation. He celebrated a \$5.2 million grant provided by the Duke Endowment to strengthen UMC churches over 5 years. Recognized 86 Lighthouse Churches - faith communities that serve as a caring, resting place for individuals or groups of people who have been displaced by a church closing or disaffiliation.
- Memorable Celebration of Life of 36 deceased clergy and diaconal ministers.
- Elected Joseph Navarro, Shareka Brown, and John Barbee as Lay Delegates to the 2024 Southeastern Jurisdiction.
- Rev. Amy Coles presented Resolutions for Closure of Cramer Memorial UMC, Roaring River UMC, St. James (Sedalia) UMC, Wade (Wadesboro) UMC, and Whitney UMC due to declining attendance and financial resources. Resolution passed.
- David Snipes, President & CEO of the United Methodist Foundation of WNC said fund has outperformed market benchmarks. 2022 showed total assets of \$289,070,423. Its loan program has 48 loans in service (\$25M) for land acquisition, building expansion, renovations, new construction, and existing loan refinancing.

Petitions to be Presented to the 2024 General Conference:

- Petition 14: Formation of local church Creation Care Teams (or strengthening of existing ones). Approved.
- Petition 15: Add fossil fuels to United Methodist Investment Screens. Approved.
- Petition 16: Allowing parental leave for up to 1/4 year for appointed clergy, and having compensation maintained for that duration. WNCC to establish fund that provides at least \$1K for each clergy member granted parental leave to assist with arrangement of pastoral responsibilities. Approved.
- Petition 17: Encouraging leadership with integrity. Asking that all lay and clergy members who intend to disaffiliate from the UMC recuse themselves from leadership roles in all areas of the church. Approved.
- Affirmed Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR) Annual Conference Statement. The Conference Cabinet will dialog with BMCR membership and form a task force for the next quadrennial.
- Petition 18: Voting at Church Conferences. The vote of the church conference shall be extended to any and every member who has shown evidence of faithfulness to their membership vows for which there are three quantifiable measures (attendance, financial support, and acts of service). Approved.
- Petition 19: Creating a U.S. Regional Conference. Approved.
- Petition 20: Removal of discriminatory language related to sexual orientation. Approved.
- Petition 21: Justice and Empowerment for LGBTQIA+ people. Approved.

2024 Annual Conference will be held at Lake Junaluska, June 21-23, 2024.

2024 General Conference will be held at the Charlotte Convention Center in Charlotte, NC, April 23-May 3, 2024. WNCC is asking for volunteers from local UMC churches to participate. Training will be provided. Watch for a link at wnccumc.org regarding volunteer opportunities. Per Bishop Carter, there will be a prayer vigil for all churches to be involved on April 28, 2024.

Sunday, June 18th - HOLINESS

Closing Worship: Bishop Carter spoke about the importance of the mission: loving God, loving your neighbor, and loving yourself. Nothing is sacred, but the mission. To be in mission, is knowing your purpose and knowing God. We become holy by loving our neighbor and seeing the image of God in each other. Christ died for ALL of us.

I encourage you to go to wnccumc.org to watch the AC 2023 recorded live stream videos.
Respectfully submitted by Barb Planchock, Lay Member of Annual Conference

THANK YOU'S...

*Ms. Gail & Ms. Beverly, Pastor Mike, Pastor Cole, & MVUMC Volunteers,
classroom students and all involved in any way,*

Thank you for starting up the preschool at MVUMC and for pouring love into my family- Katie Heise, Annie, James, and Great Grandparents. I am so grateful for all the show and tells, crafts, science, books, numbers, letters, and the kindness you took to the time to show our sweet Katie. Joy bubbles out of her so often in the songs you sang, the hugs you gave and ways you helped her to learn classroom etiquette and Chapel time.

I am grateful to the MVUMC and the Pastors and volunteers that shared their time and facilities to allow Katie to have this love of God poured into her/them. It has been a prayer of mine to God that this would be a part of Katie's world. Extending our love and kindness to all is what we are to do and I am thankful God included me and each of you in Katie's journey.

I will continue to remember MVUMC and preschool in my prayers.

*Love,
Margie Severance-Katie Heise's Grandma*

PRAYER CONCERNS...

Our Congregational Care Group meets once a month to update the list. The list will change monthly. If you know someone who needs to be added to the list or needs to remain on the list more than a month, please contact Belinda. Please pray for those below and send them a card if you would like to.

General Prayers:

Sherry Armstrong, John Burton, Larry Butler, Kathy Cascioli, Belinda Ferguson, Patrick Flynn Jr., Grace Heger, Nic & Stacey Johnson, Jerry & Robert Lindler Cheryl & Destiny Little, Peggy Martin, Tom McKnight, Caroline Miller, Jim Murtaugh, Neil Napolitano, Jim Neely, Lisa Rhoden, Rena Upright Family, Tom Wilson



Congregational Care Team

Those in hospital and/or surgeries:

Homebound/Nursing Home:

Becky Bender, Lady Hughes, Paul White- Maggie Valley Nursing & Rehab, Gail Pace- Silver Bluff, Phyllis Jackson, Polly Solley- Smoky Mtn Nursing Home, Clarissa Fisher-Florida Kathryn Brannen, Willard Dockery, Joe & Helen Duke, Brenda Griswold, Jeanette Miller, Dave Pickens, David Wagner

This month please be in prayer for our church and the church family. We have been through a lot in the last year, but we believe God is bringing us into a new season. Please be in prayer for the requests above, our finances, and that God will continue to lead us.



July

2023

June							August						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
25	26	27	28	29	30		27	28	29	30	31		

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
25 Connections Sunday School (9:15am) — Worship (10:30am)	26 Food Pantry (10-12) Shepherd's Table (3:30pm)	27 OFFICE CLOSED Happy 4th of July!	28 Food Pantry (10-12)	29 Donations Accepted at Barn (10am-12pm) Bible Study (9:30am)	30 Donations Accepted at Barn (10am-12pm) Bible Study (9:30am)	1 Donations Accepted at Barn (10am-12pm)
2 Connections Sunday School (9:15am) — Worship (10:30am)	3 OFFICE CLOSED Food Pantry (10-12) Shepherd's Table (3:30pm)	4 OFFICE CLOSED Happy 4th of July!	5 Food Pantry (10-12) Donations Accepted at Barn (9am-12pm) Bible Study (6-7:30pm) — Grace Classroom	6 Pastor's Bible Study (9am) — Fellowship Hall JMW (2pm) — Fellowship Hall	7 Grace Bible Study Class (9:30am) — Fellowship Hall	8 Donations Accepted at Barn (10am-12pm)
9 Connections Sunday School (9:15am) — Worship (10:30am)	10 Food Pantry (10-12) Shepherd's Table (3:30pm)	11 NO PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY Donations Accepted at Barn (9am-12pm)	12 Food Pantry (10-12) Bible Study (6-7:30pm) — Grace Classroom	13 NO PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY Donations Accepted at Barn (9am-12pm)	14 Grace Bible Study Class (9:30am) — Fellowship Hall	15 Donations Accepted at Barn (10am-12pm)
16 Connections Sunday School (9:15am) — Worship (10:30am)	17 Food Pantry (10-12) Shepherd's Table (3:30pm)	18 One Board Meeting (6pm) — Fellowship Hall	19 Food Pantry (10-12) Bible Study (6-7:30pm) — Grace Classroom Blood Drive (1:30-6pm)	20 Pastor's Bible Study (9am) — Fellowship Hall Donations Accepted at Barn (9am-12pm)	21 Grace Bible Study Class (9:30am) — Fellowship Hall Donations Accepted at Barn (9am-12pm)	22 Barn Sale (7am-2pm) — Barn
23 Connections Sunday School (9:15am) — Grace Room Worship (10:30am)	24 Food Pantry (10-12) Shepherd's Table (3:30pm)	25 In God's Creation Hike (9am) — Parking Lot	26 Food Pantry (10-12) Bible Study (6-7:30pm) — Grace Classroom	27 Pastor's Bible Study (9am) — Fellowship Hall Donations Accepted at Barn (9am-12pm)	28 Grace Bible Study Class (9:30am) — Fellowship Hall	29 Men's Breakfast (8am) — Fellowship Hall
30 Connections Sunday School (9:15am) — Worship (10:30am)	31 Food Pantry (10-12) Shepherd's Table (3:30pm)	1 Food Pantry (10-12) Bible Study (6-7:30pm) — Grace Classroom	2 Food Pantry (10-12) Bible Study (6-7:30pm) — Grace Classroom	3 Pastor's Bible Study (9am) — Fellowship Hall	4 Grace Bible Study Class (9:30am) — Fellowship Hall	5 Donations Accepted at Barn (10am-12pm)



ANNOUNCEMENTS...

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, July 3rd, and July 4th due to the holidays.

We will be having a blood drive on Wednesday, July 19th. The blood drive will be from 1:30pm-6pm in the Fellowship Hall. You can sign up on the American Red Cross website or contact Belinda at 926.8036. Please consider

donating for the worthy cause.

Our Church Food Pantry operates on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:00 am until noon. We are asking that everyone in the congregation bring CANNED FRUIT (no applesauce), BAR SOAP(no Ivory), CANNED PINTO BEANS, CANNED CHICKEN, and TOOTHBRUSHES this month. Personal hygiene items are appreciated also. Thank you for helping!

The youth group will NOT meet in the month of July.

The One Board will meet on Tuesday, July 18th at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

All "Love in Action" articles for August are due to Belinda by Thursday, July 20th.

The Men's Group WILL NOT meet in July or August but will have the Men's breakfast on Saturday, July 29th at 8:00am in the fellowship hall. All men are invited.

Pastor Cole's Bible Study meets on Thursday mornings at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.

The UMW Grace Circle meeting will meet on Thursday, July 6th at 2:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. All women are welcome!

NO "Sacred Seeing" for the month of July.

This year's date for the **Holiday Boutique is Saturday, December 2nd. October 1st**, we will begin accepting donations of slightly used men and women's clothing, handbags, shoes, jewelry, scarfs, Christmas, and nice gift items.

This is an important mission here at Maggie Valley UMC with proceeds going to our food ministries. Last year the boutique raised over \$8,000. The money was given to the Shepherd's Table and the Food Pantry.

Please contact Judi Ferris at 828.734.0156 or Pastor Cole for any questions.

Please join us for an easy hike into God’s creation on Tuesday, July 25th. Enjoy the fellowship and exercise while we witness the beauty of nature. **We will gather at the Church at 9:00 AM,** take the church and hike the Flat Creek Trail, 4.5 miles over and back (may do less). This is an easy hike located in the Smoky Mountains National Park. Bathrooms and a picnic area (Heintooga) where we will have lunch. We will enjoy some great vicus, lush foliage, ferns, streams, and a waterfall. Pack a lunch, water, and raingear. Contact Judi Ferris at 828.734.0156 or the church to sign up for the hike.

It Barn Sale Time!!! The next Barn Sale will be on **Saturday, July 22nd from 7:00 AM to 2 PM.** As usual, the Barn Sale proceeds will support the missions of Shepherd’s Table and the Food Pantry. If you have items you would like to donate for the sale, we would be pleased to take them provided they are clean, undamaged, and in working order. Please do not bring clothes that are dirty, damaged, or stained. Those should be taken to a charity that will accept them for rags.

Donations will be accepted at the Barn on the following days:

Friday, June 30 from 10-12

Wednesday, July 5 from 9 - 12

Saturday, July 8 from 10-12

Thursday, July 13 from 9-12

Thursday, July 20 from 9-12, and

Friday, July 21 from 10- 2

If you have a large item such as furniture, please let the Church Office know before bringing the item and we will make sure there is adequate storage. We will also need lots of folks to help with donations and then set up on Friday, July 21st, and the sale itself on Saturday, July 22nd. **If you would like to volunteer, please call Patricia Rowell at 727-515-3070 or notify Belinda in the Church Office.**

Beginning immediately, desserts for carryout must be prepared in an approved kitchen like our church kitchen. This is a requirement for our Manna program. Shepherd’s Table workers will bake desserts in the afternoon for the following Monday. **We graciously accept cake mixes, cans of frosting, instant pudding mixes, canned pie filling, eggs, sour cream, powdered sugar, etc.**

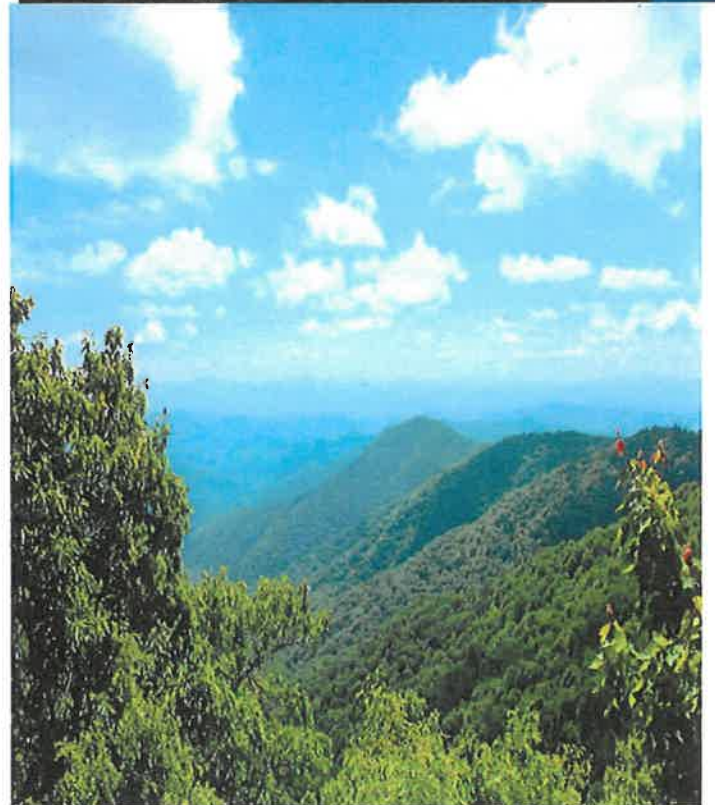
BELINDA MARR, TREASURER’S REPORT...

Monthly Financial Report for MAY 2023



Treasurer Report

MAY	
Needed for Budget	\$ 23,882.98
Expenses	\$ 28,748.50
Offerings	\$ 17,139.20
Over/Under	\$ (\$11,609.30)



BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES...

HAPPY JULY BIRTHDAYS!

2	Harrison Hermida	18	JoAnn Chilakos
10	Peggy Smith	20	Therese Sutton
10	Sam Garvin	21	Glenda Rountree
12	Jack Campbell	22	Tanya Thomas
12	Eli Messer	23	Judy Patterson
12	Jake Muirhead	24	Kristen Cabe
12	Glen Rose	24	Charlene Miller
13	Lenora Shields	27	Mark Rains
14	Twila Medford	30	Margaret Troxler
15	Tom Armstrong	30	Jackson Charles Kanupp
15	Michael McCray	31	Sue Kennedy
17	Rachel Mehaffey		

HAPPY JULY ANNIVERSARY!

1	Ann & Nathan Duncan (2007)
2	Pastor Cole & Lindsay Altizer (2011)
3	Susan & Joe Plott (2006)
9	Pam & Chris Montgomery
15	Ann & Billy Best
16	Shirley & Gene Saxton (1983)
17	Helen & Joe Duke
24	Margaret & Jeremy Troxler
29	Peggy & Oscar Smith
29	Mary & Carroll Dixon



**"Well Done! You are a good and faithful servant. You've been faithful over a little.
I'll put in charge of much. Come, Celebrate with me."
- Matthew 25:23, CEB**



Thank You

**THANK YOU FOR FAITHFULLY GIVING 100% TO THE
2022 WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE
APPORTIONMENT COVENANT**

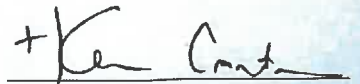
**Maggie Valley
(Maggie Valley)**



Rev. Dr. R. Mark King
Conference Treasurer



Western North Carolina Conference
The United Methodist Church



Bishop Kenneth H. Carter, Jr.
Resident Bishop

302811

Smoky Mountain

Maggie Valley United Methodist Church - Worship Service 10:30 am

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Maggie Valley, NC 28751

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Rev. Cole Altizer, Pastor - Cell (828) 577-9906

Rev. Mike Shirley, Assistant Pastor – Cell (804) 714-6319

VACANT, Pianist & Choir Director

Janice Rogers, Organist

Belinda Marr, Administrative Assistant/Treasurer

"Knowing Christ, Growing Faith, Serving Others"

Maggie Valley United Methodist Church

"LOVE IN ACTION" Newsletter

4192 Soco Road

Maggie Valley, NC 28751

On the web at www.maggieumc.org

