

November

November Events

- 3rd 8:30am UMW Breakfast
12:15pm Charge Conference
- 8th 4:30pm Chili Supper
- 12th 7:00pm P.R.A.Y. and UMC Office of Scouting Ministry Webinar
- 13th 5:30pm Finance Committee
- 17th 12:15pm Church Council
2:00pm Africa Fundraiser
- 24th 8:00am UMM Breakfast
1:30pm Community Thanksgiving Service

Anniversaries:

- 4th Wayne & Sandra Garland
- 24th Carl & Bonnie Burke
- 28th Martin & Ginny DeBord

Birthdays:

- 1st Penny Brandt
- 3rd Bob Ringelspaugh
- 4th Brad Letts
- 6th Craig Cuthbertson
- 7th Ann Carvalho
- 10th Jim Gray
Jake Hyatt
- 19th Tom Haigler
Margaret Varner
- 20th Martin DeBord
Mary Jane Letts
Ron Smith
- 22nd Susanna Segrist
Mary Worley
- 25th Earlece Greenawalt
- 27th Mercedith Bacon
- 28th Roberta Means

Weekly Events

Sundays:

- River of Life 8:30 AM
- Sunday School 9:45 AM
- Worship Service 10:55 AM
- Stone Soup 5:00 PM

Wednesdays:

- WoW! 6:30 PM
- N/A 6:30 PM
- Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM

Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday
9 AM – 12 NOON

THE UPPER ROOM

DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Thoughts about Forgiving:

God sets us free to forgive and to love. – Nov. 11

God has forgiven me; now I can forgive others. – Nov 19

Don't forget to pick-up your free copy of The Upper Room in the narthex or back hall.

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November 2013



Newsletter



Remembering and Welcoming the Saints on November 3rd.

Want more photos? [See More](#) on our website.



Memo from the Midbar

מִדְבָּר



God is With Us!

The first thing I would like you to do is read the following passage:

[Haggai 2:1-9](#)

If you are reading the digital version, click on the passage above to read the text on BibleGateway.

If you are reading a printed version, Haggai might be tougher to find than say Matthew or Luke. It is the third to last book in the Old Testament.

I know that after reading that passage the first thing that came to mind, especially for liturgists in our traditional worship service, is “Whew! I sure am glad I didn’t have to read that out loud in front of everyone. Try saying:

Haggai
Zerubbabel
Shealtiel
Jehozadak

Admittedly even I have to confess that these unfamiliar Hebrew names are intimidating to pronounce.

However, as I read the passage, the following words struck my heart:

“Take courage, all you people of the land, says the Lord; work, for I am with you, says the Lord of hosts, according to the promise that I made you.”

In times like these, it is easy to feel like the people of Israel who had seen their country and Temple go from riches to ruins. Although we are far from ruins, it sometimes feels like we get caught looking back at, as Haggai puts it, to our former glory.

But I know that if we trust the Lord, and faithfully follow where and when he leads, he

“will fill this house with splendor, says the Lord of hosts.” I am grateful for these encouraging words:

My spirit abides among you; do not fear.



Welcome to Ministry!

We are looking forward to working with our new Children’s Ministry Director, Hannah Bowick. She started her new duties at WoW on November 6th and will be leading ministry for children each Wednesday and Sunday.

She is looking forward to helping the young ones among us feel God’s love.

She will be combining the right amount of play-time with appropriate study and spiritual growth opportunities for each of our children.

One of her goals is to transform the children’s care room into a place where they feel welcomed and encouraged to learn.



Wow! Update

Starting on October 2nd, we began hosting a weekly WoW! service in the Fellowship Hall each Wednesday at 6:30 pm.

Similar to the worship style of the River of Life, WoW! offers contemporary praise and worship songs combined with a current message of Good News.

God Sightings are an encouraging part of each service as each person has the chance to share how they have seen God at work in the world.

The message is brought to a personal level of spiritual growth and life change through small group discussions and a time of prayer.

Hannah is working hard to keep the children with us through the service while helping them grow in Christ.

You can find more details, photos, and videos about the service on that page. Or just click on the link below to:

[See More online.](#)



Stone Soup Update

Join us each Sunday, starting at 5 pm for a fellowship meal and study of the Psalms.

We begin our time together with a “fellowship dinner” with a theme such as “Picnic.”

Starting on Sunday, November 10th we will begin a 22-week study on Psalm 119. Don’t worry, you can drop in anytime during the study and it will make sense.

Did you know?

- There are 176 verses divided into twenty-two 8-verse sections.
- Each 8-verse section all begins with the same Hebrew letter.
- The entire poem was meant to be sung in worship.

Check the website or church bulletin to see what the food “theme” and which section of Psalm 119 will be in focus for the week.

Click on the link below to:

[See More online.](#)



Just because there aren’t worship services on the porch of the Big Wesser BBQ & Brew throughout the winter, that doesn’t mean that nothing is happening with the River of Life.

It is a time for many of us to slow down and reflect on the summer and blessing that God has shared with a unique community of outdoors people.

Now is the time when much of the efforts we made toward providing water and hope for the people of Haiti comes to fruition.

Dr. Eugene has been working with the well drilling team to provide new communities with wells. He is also developing new methods for providing pure water to communities in crisis situations through the portable water filter.

To follow the progress of the wells, water filter or donate online for even more hope:

[See More online.](#)

Church News

Church Council

The next church council meeting will be on Sunday, November 17 after the service.

We will be discussing old and new business. Everyone in our congregation is welcome to attend this meeting.

Worship Committee

If you would be interested in being a liturgist, please contact Arthur Tribble at: 488-0372 home 770-354-2941 cell Training will be provided. Fortune and fame are sure to follow.

Finance Committee

The finance committee will be meeting on Wednesday, November 13 at 5:30pm.

UM Women

The UMW will be meeting on Sunday, November 3 at 8:30am in the Fellowship Hall.

It's time to start looking through your recipes! The annual Cookie Walk and Bazaar will be on Saturday, December 7. See Nancy Jones if you would like to help

UM Men

The next UMM breakfast will be Sunday, November 24 at 8am in the Fellowship Hall.

Join us for a time of sharing, devotional, fellowship and of course a hearty breakfast!

The annual UMM Christmas Dinner will be on Tuesday, December 10.

Community Thanksgiving Service

The annual Community Thanksgiving Service will be at 1:30pm on Sunday, November 24 at Bryson City Presbyterian Church following the Fourth Sunday Dinner. If you would like to attend the dinner as well, tickets will be available in the church office for \$10 per adult through November 20th.

Advent Giving

December 1:
Items for the Food Pantry

December 8:
Financial Contributions to the Family Resource Center

December 15:
Toys for Children

December 22 & 29:
Our Gift to Jesus

Thank You!

We offer our deepest gratitude for all who helped prepare for the Charge Conference on Sunday, November 3.

It is always inspiring to look back over the year and see the ministries of our church in the community.

Several committee leaders offered much needed effort to insure that our church is operating with administrative efficiency.

Thanks to Alan Carvalho who skillfully directed the Charge Conference.



Welcome!

We are excited to welcome into our church family new members Holly Bowick and Pat Looney.

Pat has already been active in several areas including No Idle Hands. Holly is a master chef who cooked a wonderful breakfast for the UMW on Sunday. We think they'll fit in well here.



Christmas Stories

We are asking for help from the congregation with our Christmas edition of the BCUMC Newsletter this year!

If you have a special Christmas story, please submit it to Mikki.

We need short stories about LOVE, GRACE, HOPE, GIVING, or even a CHRISTMAS MIRACLE!

We would also like to share a couple of the stories as part of our Christmas Worship service. These stories would also be wonderful to add to our website to inspire others beyond our own walls.

Please indicate whether you would be willing to read your story at the Christmas worship service or would allow someone else to read it for you. Let us know if it is OK to post your story online.

Depending on the number and length of stories we receive, we may have to choose six to eight that best fit the newsletter.

We are looking forward to involving everyone in our program of Christmas music and stories.

11th Annual Cookie Walk and Christmas Bazaar

The United Methodist Women
of the
Bryson City
United Methodist Church



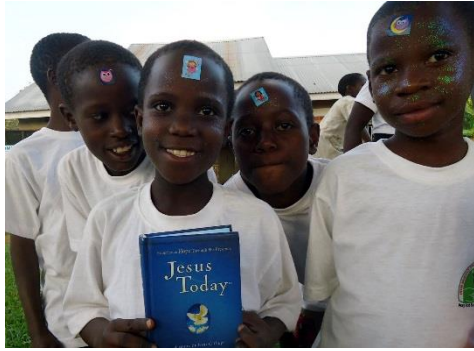
Date: Saturday, December 7th
Time: 9:00 a.m. until we sell out
Location: Fellowship Hall behind the church



Choose from many varieties of
homemade holiday cookies at \$6 a
pound and gifts for that hard to
please person in our holiday shop
as well as breads, decorations, etc.



Reading, Reason, and Hope for Africa



On Sunday, November 17, BCUMC and myself will host a tea and silent auction for 44 children and 2-4 adult students in Kenya and Uganda. The event is planned to ensure that children, particularly in 2 places in Uganda, have tuition to go to school. Real horrors await children who have to drop out of school early, including childhood marriages, arranged marriages, illiteracy and thus extreme poverty, illnesses, lack of medical care and contraceptives, Malaria, sex trafficking, slavery, AIDS, and in parts of Uganda, human sacrifice (of children). Every year of primary school makes it less likely that any of these tragic events will occur. Secondary school ensures a better standard of life in these destitute countries. Trade school, two-year

college or 4-year university programs ensure a more successful life.



I have worked with two individuals in Uganda who care for orphans and destitute children. Henry Mayamba is the director of the Inter-religious Health Outreach Foundation Uganda, in Kampala. It houses at present 28 children and 5 volunteer staff, and cares for people in hospitals and their families. Henry says that the main enemy of the children is not AIDS but sex trafficking (sexual slavery), and he ensures that the children

go to school, even when there is nothing left in the meager bank account. He ensures an upbringing centered in Christ. He is an intensely spiritual man, and wise beyond his years. He speaks four languages, has two college degrees, yet lives simply. He was eager to "meet" Wayner on Facebook, and they have corresponded. Henry has malaria and every few months is just "not there." Emails and Facebook queries go unanswered. Silence from Henry means it is time to pray for his recovery, which he deeply appreciates. Henry's Facebook address is Healthfoundation Uganda, or Directorhenry Needyepeople.



Ssentamu Simon is a pineapple grower who teaches Bible classes in Nkoma, Masaka District, Uganda. He has 16 kids in the class, few of whom are sponsored. More kids want to join. Ssentamu does a lot more than teach the Bible; he ensures the safety, school attendance, and wellbeing of each child. I have had to send him some

workbooks on how to help grieving children, which he has used skillfully. He really is a natural social worker. Sent's new Facebook page is Nkomakids Masaka.

In Kenya and Uganda are now-finished projects & events which somewhat reflect the chaos associated with African aid: a library at Henry's Foundation, a small library for kids in Nkoma, a day care, a girls latrine at Henry's when the old one collapsed, purchases of fertilizer, mortar, coffee plants, a casket, medicine, hospital and doctor's fees, bus fare, Bibles for kids and adults, pencils, crayons and coloring books, a map of the world, a trophy for a soccer coach, salaries for 3 soccer referees, a musician's fee, and the list will go on. These have all been my doing and pleasure. Any funds raised will NOT go to anything other than tuition UNLESS you want to help bring electricity into the Pamela Media Resource Library at Henry's in Kampala. To bring electricity over from the road to the library building, put in overhead lights and fixtures, wall outlets, etc. through inspection would cost \$650. There are only a

few electricians in Kampala and they are expensive. But at least the children could study and read at night, which they are unable to do now.

Any contributions now or at the Nov. 17 tea and auction will be payable to the church and designated "African mission." Donations will be tax deductible. I will give a presentation at the event, and Wayner has planned a slide show and music from Uganda. There will be some information of the few but impressive adults in university in Kenya. There

will be plenty of time for the silent auction, a door prize or two, and cake, cookies, finger food, pie, coffee and tea at the event. The event is scheduled from 2-3:30 p.m.

Pam Jarrett



Prayer Needs

We are grateful for everyone that committed to being a part of our church's team of dedicated pray-ers? We call this support team our *Prayer Chain*.

If you, or someone you know, has a prayer need for any reason, please call:

Nancy Jones
488-8970

Church Office
488-2680