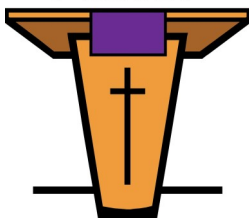




Grace ABOUNDS

July 2023

From Our Interim Pastor



When I served on the bishop's staff in the North Carolina Synod, I had several difficult areas of responsibility. In addition to the "normal" stuff like call process, I also was responsible for coordinating synodical disaster response, working with congregations in high level conflict, and working with the bishop in areas of clergy misconduct. Needless to say, there was hardly ever a dull day! And I knew one of those hard and difficult days was about to begin when the bishop would come, knock on my office door, and say, "Well, do I ever have an opportunity for you today!"

I've been thinking about the bishop's use of that word "opportunity" as I think about us, Grace congregation, and where we are in our journey to hear and follow God's call to be about God's mission in this time and in this place. It's difficult to be church in these days. Declining membership, even before COVID, was happening. Giving was down. Commitment to the various ministries of the congregation waned. And then COVID hit and these challenges intensified even more. And that's not true just here at Grace but across the ELCA and other denominations as well.

And that's where this word "opportunity" comes in to play. There were days, many days in the North Carolina Synod, when seeing the work I was called to do as "opportunity" seemed anywhere close to true. Yet, the opportunity for bringing about healing and restoration brought many unexpected gifts along the way. I could share many stories but one jumps out at me right now. A beloved pastor in one of our congregations, due to complex medical interactions, took his own life. I was sent to care for his family and the congregation. Twenty years later I got a call to come and share in their 25th anniversary celebration, and the note said, "without your journeying with us, we would not be here today." I thank God every day for the opportunity to work with them – and I actually am still in touch with that pastor's family.

I believe, I hope, I pray that "opportunity" needs to become our mantra here at Grace. For sure, challenges face us. Financial challenges, broader commitment of members to the ministries of this congregation, growing the congregation, and yes, calling a pastor are ours to face and to resolve. But, here's the thing! We can either approach these growing edges with despair and hopelessness – OR – we can look at these growing edges as opportunity. Opportunity to be still, pray, listen to the Spirit speak – making sure it's not our own voice but the Spirit's we hear and heed. We can discern anew what it means to be church – the body of Christ on this earth. We can hear our call to be God's servant church to those around us and even to the ends of the earth. We can find anew the energy, the excitement, the call to be God's people in the emerging 21st century North American church. What an opportunity! And I mean that. What an opportunity!

The apostle Paul wrote to the fledgling church in Galatia these words: "So, then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith."

So, go for it!

Love you...Pastor Jane



Lutheroad Day Camp

July 17 - July 21

Lunch will be provided
by Grace and served at
Grace on July 18.

More information on pg. 3.



Fun for Everyone!

Grace Game Night

July 28

Hot Dog Supper - 6 p.m.

More information on pg. 3.

JULY Birthdays

- 4 - Sue Mitchell
- 5 - Bryce Medlock
- 6 - Pastor Timothea Sharpe
- 7 - Brande Fanara
- 9 - Clyna Quattlebaum
Brad Waters
- 13 - Paula Epting
- 14 - Jessica Shealy, Matthew Shealy
- 15 - Jay Vaughn
- 16 - Evelyn Harmon, Dale Shealy
- 17 - Riley Chandler, Riley Eldridge
Haileigh Mercer
- 18 - Robert Peters
- 20 - Luke Chandler
- 21 - Scott Epting, Steven Hill
- 22 - Marci Bouknight
- 23 - Jeremy Medlock, Dakota Senn
- 24 - Jessica Mercer
- 26 - Judy Bedenbaugh, Ashley Metts
Mary Grace Whitlock
- 27 - Christina Henricks, Zoila Lipscomb
- 30 - Buck Black, Johnny Merck

Grace People in the News

BAILEY STEWART played shortstop and third base for the Mid-Carolina High softball team that won first place in Region, first place in District, and first place in Upper State. The team was runner up in the AA Softball State Championship, making school history! Bailey received the Gold Glove award for defense. Bailey is also an all-star student, earning a place on the Principal's Honor Roll.



ANNA KAY SINGLEY won first place in the Masters Mixed Media category for her two-dimensional artwork, *Who Are Those Peeps?* in Crooked Creek Art League's 28th annual juried show. She also received a patron award for her three-dimensional artwork, *Cutting Up 1*.

RAELYNN WESSINGER received I-math and PE awards at Pomaria-Garmany Elementary. She also received the Young Writer's Recognition award for outstanding writing, and her work was featured in the School District of Newberry Writing Anthology sponsored by the Newberry County Literacy Association.

CHRISTINA HENRICKS' article on the Newberry Art Center and its summer programs was featured in *The Newberry Observer*.

JAXON WESSINGER received I-math and Art awards at PGE.

JULY Baptisms

- 10 - Sally Dominick
- 13 - Joanna B. Kiker
- 17 - Margaret Kluttz, Paula Pridgen
- 21 - Jaylan Burnore
Caroline Whitlock
- 23 - Faye Hartman
- 30 - Davis Pollard Till

JULY Anniversaries

- 1 - James and Christina Henricks (6th)
- 9 - Everett and Glenda Crafts (63rd)
- 15 - Al Potter and Timothea Sharpe (22nd)
- 17 - Ronda and Russell Mewbourn (19th)
- 18 - Billy and Kay George (58th)
- 27 - Robert and Sheila Martin (54th)

Parish Records

Transferred In: Peggy Thomas from St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Irmo, SC, April 30, 2023.

Confirmation: Helena Beth Mewbourn and Lillie Ann Waters, May 28, 2023.

Funeral: William Glenn Kluttz at Grace, June 24, 2023.

CONTACT information



Peggy Thomas
522 McNeary St.
Prosperity, SC
803-924-6113

**Pastor Jane and
Pastor Mitch**
286 Tweng Trail
Lexington, SC 29072

**Anthony and Brande
Fanara**

37 Waybrook Ct.
Columbia, SC 29212

Don't forget to update the church office when your mailing address, telephone, or email address changes or contact information of your family members changes. Thanks for helping us stay in touch!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

GAME NIGHT AND HOT DOG SUPPER

FRIDAY, JULY 28

6 P.M.

**Bring a side dish and/or
dessert to share.**

Everything else for the meal will be provided.
Sign up sheet is on the narthex board.

Board games, cornhole, etc. will be
available to play beginning at 5:30 p.m.
Bingo will begin after supper.


Sponsored by the Care and Fellowship Team



Helena Mewbourn and Lillie Waters affirmed their baptism as part of the Pentecost Sunday Service on May 28. We rejoice in the work of the Holy Spirit in these young lives and pray for their continued journey of faith.

Scholarship Forms Due July 1

Deadline to apply for the Grace Bedenbaugh - Chariker Scholarship is July 1. Applications for the Grace Scholarship are available in one of the wall pockets outside the church office window. The Grace Bedenbaugh - Chariker Scholarship Fund provides assistance for active Grace members enrolled in post-high school degree programs.



This fund was founded by the late Earle and Jeannine Bedenbaugh who provided financial support for many years. In 2018, Susan and John David Dawkins began matching donations as an ongoing memorial to Susan's mother, Kathryn D. Chariker, a long-time educator.

How To Make A Donation

Scholarship Fund envelopes are available behind the guest register in the narthex. Donations may be made in honor or in memory of loved ones. Remember: your donation will be matched!

Volunteers Needed to Help Grace Provide Lunch for Lutheroad Day Camp July 18



Our Lutheroad Day Camp with Mt. Tabor, Macedonia, Mt. Pilgrim, and Bethel (White Rock) Lutheran churches will be held July 17-21.

Raelynn and Jaxon Wessinger will be attending day camp. The day camp will be led by counselors and an area director from the Lutheridge summer staff. Camp will be based at Mt. Tabor with the opening there on Sunday evening, July 16.

Grace will be providing a lunch of sandwiches, chips, and cookies on Tuesday, July 18. A sign up sheet will be on the bulletin board by July 2. Food donations will need to be left in the church kitchen by 11 a.m. on Tuesday, July 18. Please sign up if you can help. Contact Emmett Wicker with questions.

Congregation Meeting

Called Congregation Meeting

Sunday, Aug. 13



Grace Prayer List

Grace Family: Wanda Hartman; Cissie and Bob Dibble; Glenda and Everett Crafts; Heather and Bob Harris; Evelyn Harmon; Marysue Rivers; Faye Hartman; Lois Amick; Margaret Kluttz and family on the death of her husband, Glenn Kluttz, June 16.



Residential Care: Sadie Epting (*Springfield Place, Rm. 11*); Sue Hartman (*JF Hawkins, Rm. 27*); Paula Epting (*White Oak, Rm. 323B*); Allene Dawkins (*Springfield Place, Rm. 19*); Wendy and Michael Riley (*Faith Nursing Home, Florence*).

College Student: Taylor Metz (*MUSC*).

Extended Family: Broko Boland, Kim Pittman (*Melodie Waters' cousins*); Brittany Cumalander, Ann Livingston (*Lynn Wessinger's cousins*); Mary Ellen Hartzog (*Eddie Rivers' cousin*).

Military: SGT. Anderson Dibble (*Marines/Iraq - Cissie/Bob Dibble's granddaughter*); Everett Crafts V (*Air Force/Guam - Glenda/Everett Craft's grandson*); Walker Eldridge (*Coast Guard/VA*); Caleb Salyers (*US Army Cavalry Scout/Ft. Hood, TX - Rev. Al Potter's grandson*).

Community: Dean Wise; Jackie Perry; Amy Frick Wicker; Davida Monsanto; Violet Wilmot; Mary Lawson; Shirley Thomas; NC Bishop Tim Smith; Pastor William and Karen Hightower; Brian Cassady.

God's World: victims of gun violence; Ukraine and neighboring countries; those affected by wildfires, flooding, hurricanes, earthquakes, and tornadoes; military families; homeless; jobless and underemployed; refugees; those suffering due to natural disasters, unrest, and fighting throughout the world; our enemies.

To add or remove a name from the Prayer List, contact the office at 803-364-3331 or gracelutheran2@att.net or leave a written note in the office box. Thank you!



June Memorials and Honorariums

Gifts to the Current Budget Fund

In memory of James R. "Jimmy" Dawkins by McSwain-Evans Funeral Home

In honor of Pastor Jane on the 25th anniversary of her ordination

By: Pastor Jackie Utley
Robert and Suzanne Sims
Judyth McKay
Reginald and Brenda Price

In loving honor of Judy Bedenbaugh on her birthday by Kim and John Uhas

Gifts to the Building Loan Fund

In memory of James "Jimmy" Dawkins

By: Kim and John Uhas
Dale and Julie Shealy

In memory of James B. "Snag" Epting by Kim and John Uhas

In honor of Pastor Jane Mitcham by Faye Hartman

In memory of our fathers by Andy and Mike Hawkins

In memory of Joe Counts by Charlsie Doolittle

In honor of Anna Kay Singley by Charlsie Doolittle

In honor of the 67th anniversary of our wedding at Grace parsonage by Georgie and Perry E. Riley

In honor of Pastor Jane's 25th ordination anniversary by Bev Hawkins

In memory of my dear friend, Lisa Brandt-Pruitt, and in honor of our goddaughter, Samantha Pruitt by Lynn and Larry Wessinger

In memory of Terry Shaver by Harriett C. Kesler

Gift to the Building Loan Principal

In honor of Dean Wise, a good friend, by Bob and Heather Harris

Gift to the Community Service Fund

In memory of James "Jimmy" Dawkins by Mark and Janet Kibler

Gift to the Scholarship Fund

In honor of Parker Metts on his college graduation by Lynn and Larry Wessinger

Memorials for Glenn Kluttz will be listed in next month's newsletter.

Pastor Jane Celebrates 25th Ordination Anniversary

Grace helped Pastor Jane celebrate the 25th Anniversary of her Ordination on Sunday, June 11. The Rev. Sara Ilderton shared the message. The Rev. Jackie Utley presented *Here I Am, Lord* for the anthem. A reception in Pastor Jane's honor followed the service.



Pastor Jane with the Rev. Sara Ilderton and the Rev. Jackie Utley at the reception celebrating the 25th anniversary of her ordination.



Grace Members Attend Annual Synod Assembly June 8-10

Johnny Merck, Lynn Wessinger, Jessica Shealy (under 30), and Pastor Jane represented Grace as voting members at this year's annual SC Synod Assembly June 8-10 at the Columbia Marriott. This year's theme was "I See Jesus." Stories from across our Synod and synodical partners were shared about where God is at work and where we see Jesus in those around us. Johnny and Jessica shared some of their assembly experiences and insights before the June 25 worship service at Grace.



Thank you for all of the acts of kindness shown to Jimmy and to his family during his recent illness and passing. Your visits, cards, thoughts, and your prayers are deeply appreciated. Special thanks to Pastor Jane for her visits and compassion. Jimmy was blessed to have you all in his life.

Family of Jimmy Dawkins

Thanks for being so thoughtful...for being so special...for just being you.

Dear Grace Family,

Sunday could not have been more meaningful and I hope worshipful as well. Thanks for all you did to make the day special - and as the card says - Thanks for being you!

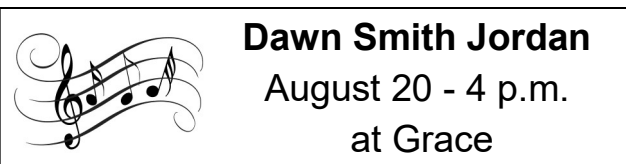
Love, Pastor Jane



Grace VBS Held June 25-29

Vacation Bible School was in full swing at Grace at the time the newsletter was printed. This year's dates were Sunday, June 25 through Thursday, June 29 with the theme ***Twists and Turns*** (*Following Jesus Changes the Game*). Thank you to all of our volunteers!

We'll have updates and more photos in next month's issue.



Serving in July

Assisting Ministers

2 - Allie Waters
9 - Kelly Whitlock
16 - Andy Hawkins
23 - Sally Dominick
30 - Ronnie Cromer



Altar Flowers

2 - Donna Jacobs
9 -
16 -
23 - Mike and Kelly Whitlock
30 - Melodie Waters

Acolyte

Helena Mewbourn

Communion Assistant

Judy Bedenbaugh

Communion Preparation

Mike Whitlock

Communion Clean Up

Judy Bedenbaugh, Andrea Lewis

Ushers

Mike Whitlock (head), Chop Cooper,
Craig Metz, Kim Metz, Brad Waters

Greeters

Nancy Derrick, Andrea Lewis

Offering Tabulators

Brad Waters (head), Beverly Merck,
Johnny Merck, Melodie Waters

Altar Guild

Deborah and Phil Ruff

Pew Helper

Beverly Hawkins

Front Sign

Waters Family

SANCTUARY LAMP SPONSORS



During the month of July, the Sanctuary Lamp burns to the glory of God and in honor of my sisters, Sharon M. Neel and Roberta M. Capó, and with compassion for people who are going through difficult times by Katherine Bennett.

For honorary or memorial information to be included in the newsletter and bulletin, information and \$30 donation should be received by the office by the last Sunday of the month prior to the month you sponsor.

| | Sanctuary | * Online | Total |
|------|-----------|----------|-------|
| 6/4 | 59 | 16 | 75 |
| 6/11 | 81 | 8 | 89 |
| 6/18 | 47 | 12 | 59 |
| 6/25 | 56 | 20 | 76 |

* Total Online viewers = Peak views x 2 per SC Synod instructions.



| | |
|------|----|
| 6/4 | 21 |
| 6/11 | 33 |
| 6/18 | 19 |
| 6/25 | 21 |

Altar Flower Donors Needed

Altar flower donors are still needed for a number of Sundays: July 9 and 16; Aug. 6, 13 and 27; Sept. 3; Oct. 1, 8, 15, and 22; and Nov. 5 and 19. Sign up on the chart in the narthex or contact the church office by phone or email to reserve any of these dates.



NewsLetter
DEADLINE

**Deadline for the
August 2023
Newsletter:
July 17**



Adult Choir Practice

There will be no choir practice during the month of July.

Wake Up Team Shares Call Process Update With Council, Congregation

Thirty-nine people were present on Tuesday, June 13 for an update to Council by the Wake Up Team on our financial situation and its relationship to the call process. The congregation was invited to attend this meeting through email and bulletin announcements.



The Wake Up Team began its presentation with the Synod guidelines for a pastor's compensation package, including housing, insurance, retirement, and other benefits. The Synod recommends a total package of \$75,469.89 for a first call pastor; \$81,158.67 for a pastor with four years of experience; and \$90,064.93 for a pastor with 10 or more years of experience. Grace would have to demonstrate that they could sustain this package for seven years with a 2.5% annual increase.

The team's presentation indicated that Grace's 2023 budget contains \$54,198 for base salary for a full-time pastor plus \$9,500 for benefits, which would be \$63,689 for the total package and \$11,780.89 below Synod recommendations. *(Note: The budgeted amount is not Pastor Jane's salary as interim. The Finance Team budgeted for a full-time pastor in anticipation that our pastoral situation might change during 2023.)*

The Wake Up Team then called attention to Grace's current giving levels to the Current Fund (budget) and the Building Loan Fund. If the budget is divided into 12 equal parts, the congregation is \$26,294 behind our goal as of May 21 and \$4,079 behind our need to cover the building loan payments through May 21 - a total of \$30,373 behind in giving five months into the year. The team made the point that this giving deficit further hinders us in being able to provide the recommended compensation package to sustain a full-time pastor.

Four options for acquiring a pastor were offered by the Wake Up Team:

1. Seek a full-time pastor. This would require Grace being able to meet the Synod guidelines for the pastoral compensation package. The team also noted that there is currently a small number of first-call pastors available.
2. Partner with another congregation. This would mean sharing a pastor with another congregation. Grace would have to negotiate a contract with the partner congregation as to service times, pastoral office hours/days, etc.

Continued on pg. 10

Grace Leaders

Congregational Officers

Susan Dawkins, vice president
Deborah Ruff, secretary

Congregation Council

Deborah Ruff, chair
Susan Dawkins, vice chair
Christina Henricks, secretary

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Ronnie Cromer | Sue Mitchell |
| George Dawkins | Nathan Shealy |
| Lisa Farr | Brad Waters |
| Candace Frick | Lynn Wessinger |
| Beverly Hawkins | Camryn Shealy |
| Robert Martin | (youth) |



Care and Fellowship Team

Dale Shealy, chair

Christian School Team

Sarah Eargle, chair

Community Hope Team

Wayne Mitchell, chair

Facilities Team

Walt Quattlebaum, chair

Finance Team

Mike Hawkins, chair

Good News Team

Beverly Hawkins, chair

Lifelong Education Team

Andrea Lewis, chair

Worship Team

Deborah Ruff, Emmett Wicker, co-chairs

Youth Ministry Team

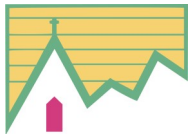
Lynn Wessinger, chair

Church Staff

Julie Shealy, Office Secretary
Eddie Rivers, Choirmaster/Organist
Chop Cooper, Preschool Administrator
Tim Harmon, Janitorial Services Contractor
Craig Farr, Groundskeeper Contractor

Fund Treasurers

Linda Cromer, Current Fund, Sunday School
Kim Metz, Building Fund
Edwina Wicker, Maintenance Fund
Julie Shealy, Community Service Fund
Teresa Cooper, Campership Fund
Candace Frick, Scholarship Fund



Church
FINANCES

Our Offerings for June

Through June 25
(Does not include June EFTs)

MINISTRY BUDGET *Our Monthly Need: \$13,344*

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Given during month..... | \$8,083.00 |
| Given year-to-date..... | \$53,309.01 |
| Goal through June 30..... | \$80,064.00 |

BUILDING LOAN FUND *Our Monthly Need: \$4,720*

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Given during month..... | \$4,289.01 |
| Given year-to-date..... | \$23,946.02 |
| Required through June 30..... | \$28,320.00 |
| Gifts to Be Applied to Principal..... | \$1,600.00 |
| Fundraisers for Principal..... | \$1,558.66 |

MAINTENANCE/UPKEEP FUND

| | |
|-------------------------|------------|
| Given during month..... | \$331.38 |
| Given year-to-date..... | \$2,397.07 |

PARSONAGE FUND

| | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Given during month..... | \$10.00 |
| Given year-to-date..... | \$60.00 |
| Fund Balance, June 25..... | \$4,380.38 |

SUNDAY SCHOOL

| | |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Given during month..... | \$68.00 |
| Given year-to-date..... | \$624.26 |

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

| | |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Given during month..... | \$25.69 |
| Given year-to-date..... | \$276.38 |

CAMPERSHIP FUND

| | |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Given during month..... | \$65.68 |
| Given year-to-date..... | \$316.37 |

COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND

| | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Community Assistance..... | \$90.00 |
| Given year-to-date..... | \$1,111.58 |
| Bookbag Food Ministry..... | \$10.00 |
| Given year-to-date..... | \$10.00 |
| Thanksgiving Meal..... | \$0.00 |
| Given year-to-date..... | \$0.00 |
| Total year-to-date..... | \$1,121.58 |

SPECIAL 2023 OFFERINGS

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Estate of Larry Spotts..... | \$25,000.00 |
| St. Jude (Preschool Trike-a-thon)..... | \$1,275.00 |
| Bereavement Meal Fund..... | \$1,120.00 |
| Boston Butt Building Loan Fundraiser... | \$937.51 |
| Shrove Tues. Building Loan Fundraiser... | \$621.15 |
| Scholarship Fund Match 2022..... | \$550.00 |
| Boys' Farm (Preschool Chapel Change)..... | \$525.00 |
| Livestream Upgrade..... | \$515.15 |
| Interfaith Comm. Services (Lenten Offering) | \$488.00 |
| Youth..... | \$425.69 |



MINISTRY BUDGET

| | |
|----------------------|----------|
| Needed Thru June 30: | \$80,064 |
| Given thru June 25: | \$53,309 |

Amount Behind Goal: \$26,755

BUILDING LOAN

| | |
|------------------------|----------|
| Required Thru June 30: | \$28,320 |
| Given thru June 25: | \$23,946 |

Amount Behind Goal: \$ 4,374

Boston Butt FUNDRAISER

We are excited to share that our Boston Butt Fundraiser on June 17 raised \$937.51 to go toward the principal of our Ministry Center building loan. We appreciate everyone who purchased a Boston Butt as well as those who made donations in lieu of buying a roast. Thanks to all who helped to make this a successful fundraiser! Special thanks to Scott and Smokin Buttz BBQ (213 S. Main St., Prosperity) for donating their skills to smoke the Boston Butts for us!



Manna House Item of the Month: Pasta Sauce

Donations can be left in the Manna House box in the narthex. Thank you for supporting Manna House!

SPECIAL 2023 OFFERINGS continued

| | |
|---|----------|
| Manna House (Preschool Closings)..... | \$390.00 |
| Disaster Response (for Mid East Crisis).... | \$300.00 |
| Youth (Thrivent)..... | \$240.00 |
| Easter Lilies..... | \$270.10 |
| Souper Bowl (Wolves Pantry/Newberry Col.).... | \$212.25 |
| Vacation Bible School..... | \$165.00 |
| LSC New Americans Program..... | \$60.00 |
| Christian School..... | \$50.68 |
| Disaster Response..... | \$20.00 |



Council Notes

Congregation Council Meeting – June 13, 2023

Attendance; Nathan, Robert, Lisa, Deborah, Camryn, Lynn, Beverly, Candace, Ronnie, Brad, Sue, Pastor Jane, George, Susan. Absent: Christina Hendricks.

Reflections from the meeting held prior to Council Meeting: Some of the following information was highlighted by council: Strong requests for giving. Try to decide about the giving from the members. First call pastor - More discussion about this option from the members present. 50-50 partnering – How long is it going to take? Can this question be answered with the unknown? Possible option is to review the step every 18 months. Rushing into the process - Should the congregation take additional time to work through the process and options provided? Discuss the salary with the pastor to determine if salary is negotiable? Decide in the process. It is time to move forward and decide. Part time verses Partnering / Sharing with another congregation – more options are available. Option 1 – How do we even see this as a possible option with the current financial status of Grace? Negotiate the time, agree to pay 50 percent among the congregations. Specific things that need to be addressed. Stewardship, Ministry Teams, Specific Goals - What are doing for the next two years? Do we want to do this? The planning/syndrome that we are facing. New pattern of learning.



**Tuesday,
July 11
7 p.m.**

Council voted to bring to the congregation to enter a partnership with another congregation for a call for a pastor. There was one abstention. The congregation will need to vote, and a congregational meeting will need to be called. Next steps with a sister congregation establish a meeting to begin the discussion of needs verses wants in a pastor. More discussion occurred after the vote. Continue to look at the compensation – Compensate accordingly. Ministry Site Profile will need to reflect this option and the agreement of the process. Share with the congregation - Aug. 13.

Railroad Discussion– Bob Dibble – \$100 per year to \$300 per year. Railroad line – Ronnie will also talk with individuals.

Telephone Bill – Internet Access – Look at Bundle – Robert would talk to Michael. AT&T – contract. Check with Robert to see where we are to see with the process.

Ministry Team Task Force – Christina would love to work with this according to Pastor Jane. Additional information will be shared, and the council will begin discussing committees and the recommendations.

Julie Shealy will become a backup for signing on the Current Fund. (*Note: requested by treasurer Linda Cromer.*) *Continued on pg. 10*

May Financial Reports

| | <u>Balance, 5/1</u> | <u>Received</u> | <u>Disbursed</u> | <u>Balance, 5/31</u> | <u>Additional Information</u> |
|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Current/Budget Fund | \$52,887.95 | \$10,213.19 | \$11,726.91 | \$51,374.23 ^a | \$11,099.03 CD |
| Building Loan Fund | \$78,895.58 | \$ 4,181.46 | \$51,119.85 ^c | \$31,957.19 | (\$93,779 balance owed) |
| Maintenance Fund | \$ 7,359.26 | \$ 305.48 | \$ 958.26 | \$ 6,706.48 ^b | n/a |
| Sunday School Account | \$ 3,025.10 | \$ 233.00 | \$ 755.42 | \$ 2,502.68 | n/a |
| Christian Schools Acct. | \$25,627.88 | \$10,312.19 | \$11,333.65 | \$24,606.42 | n/a |
| CS Educational Fund | \$ 7,888.45 | \$ 560.18 | \$ 3,242.46 | \$ 5,206.11 ^d | n/a |

^a Current Fund Balance does not include designated monies for the LED Bulb Fund (\$534.37); Choir Fund (\$325); Sound System Fund (\$335.39); Bereavement Meal Fund (\$1,930.61); Livestream Upgrade (\$515.15); Sydney Shealy Memorial Gift (\$5,555.68); or Gift from the Estate of Larry Spotts (\$22,500) contained within the Current Fund Checking Account.

^bMaintenance Fund balance does not include Parsonage Fund (\$4,370.38) or Front Door Fund (\$666.39) contained within the Maintenance Fund Checking Account. ^cDisbursements include \$46,400 principal payment on building loan.

^dbalance corrected by treasurer from report shared with Council.

Council Minutes *continued from pg. 9*



Parsonage – Use of parsonage – Grants available – Parsonage Committee will call a meeting and provide updates to the council. Depending on the Parsonage Committee meeting time will determine if these updates will be shared in July or August. Lutheran Services of Carolinas – Families needing housing is a suggestion for the use of the parsonage. Committee will have to figure out what is going to be needed. What are the codes – Look into availability of grants and additional funding. Meet and discuss the opportunity.

Livestreaming – tripod – cameras, phones, camera will test audio and visual. Need to continue to discuss the options for the team. Currently at \$6,000. Need \$11,000.

Spotts' Fund – Project – Making the motion to use some of the Spotts' fund to complete the process. Checking the guidelines with Robert Martin and John David Dawkins.

Boston Butt Fundraiser – Sold 50 - Report of final numbers will be shared at the next meeting.

VBS – Meals Team will meet to discuss menu and the items needed. Currently still in need of additional children. Another push on social media will happen before VBS.

Dawn Smith Jordan – Aug. 20 – Community Event - More information to come in the July meeting.

No ministry team updates currently.

Next Council Meeting – July 11th at 7 pm. Ronnie Cromer, Susan Dawkins, and George Dawkins will not be able to attend due to scheduled vacations.

Shepherding Concerns – Thank you for Recognition Sunday from Pastor Jane. The members of Grace were so welcoming to the guests in attendance. The service was great and enjoyed by all.

From Minutes submitted by Susan Dawkins, Council Vice Chair, Acting Secretary

ELCA World Hunger

The United Nations World Food Programme recently warned that acute food insecurity has reached an unprecedented high, affecting a record 349 million people — up from 135 million in 2019. That is a shocking statistic. ELCA World Hunger partners here in the United States and around the world are telling us about the financial strain caused by the rising hunger crisis.



ELCA
World Hunger

Through ELCA World Hunger you can support families as they address root causes of hunger and poverty through such multifaceted solutions as education, agricultural training and microloans for women. Our faith calls us to be in relationship with our neighbors, and that is what makes this partnership so important.

You can give online at elca.org. You can also give by mail. Make checks payable to "ELCA World Hunger" and mail to: Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009. You can give by phone at 800-638-3522. You can also give through Grace. Make checks payable to your congregation, write "ELCA World Hunger" in the memo line, and place your gift in the offering plate.

Wake Up Team *continued from pg. 7*

Each congregation would be responsible for half of the compensation package.

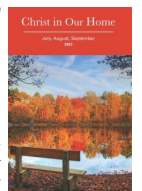


3. Seek a part-time pastor. This could be a retired pastor or someone who also works another job. There is a question about whether there is anyone available and willing to assume such a position.
4. Do nothing. Continue with an interim pastor indefinitely. New guidelines for the interim would have to be negotiated.

Following the team's presentation, there was open discussion of our options, our financial situation, and potential ways to move Grace forward.




Christ in Our Home Quarterly Devotionals

Quarterly *Christ in Our Home* devotionals for July, August and September are available on the narthex table. Pick up a copy for your home and take one to a friend!



July 2023



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|-----------|---|--|---|
| 30 9th Sunday after Pentecost Breakfast - 9:15 a.m. Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. Worship - 10:30 a.m. | 31 | | | | | 1 <i>Deadline for Bedenbaugh- Chariker Scholarship Applications</i> |
| 2 5th Sunday after Pentecost Breakfast - 9:15 a.m. Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. Worship - 10:30 a.m. | 3 Office closed | 4 Office Closed  | 5 | 6 Bulletin Deadline - 9 a.m. | 7 | 8 |
| 9 6th Sunday after Pentecost Breakfast - 9:15 a.m. Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. Worship - 10:30 a.m. | 10 | 11 Council Meeting - 7 p.m. | 12 | 13 Bulletin Deadline - 9 a.m. | 14 | 15 |
| 16 7th Sunday after Pentecost Breakfast - 9:15 a.m. Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. Worship - 10:30 a.m. | 17 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>  | 18 Day Camp Lunch at Grace (Ministry Center reserved) | 19 | 20 Bulletin Deadline - 9 a.m. | 21 | 22 |
| ← Lutheroad Day Camp July 17 - 21 → | | | | | | |
| 23 8th Sunday after Pentecost Breakfast - 9:15 a.m. Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. Worship - 10:30 a.m. | 24 | 25 Newsletter Team - 9 a.m. | 26 | 27 Bulletin Deadline - 9 a.m. | 28  GAME NIGHT Game Night and Hot Dog Supper - 6 p.m. | 29 <i>July 30 and 31 info is at top left.</i> |



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Ministers: The People of Grace

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jane P. Mitcham

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July Highlights



Church Day Camp

Lutheroad Day Camp
July 17-21



GAME NIGHT

Grace Game Night
with Hot Dog Supper

July 28



Don't Take
a Vacation
from Church

Looking Ahead

Blessing of the
Bookbags - Aug. 6

Called Congregation
Meeting - Aug. 13

Heartland Conference
Lutheran Men Youth Night
Aug. 18 - 7 p.m.
(Location tbd)

Dawn Smith Jordan
August 20
- 4 p.m. at Grace

Grace Scholarship
Sunday - tbd