

# In a Nutshell      September 19, 2025

## Meet Emily Phenice, Duke Intern

She was born and raised in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Growing up, Emily loved attending Uskichitto Retreat Center, a local United Methodist summer camp. When she was 12 years old, she became a counselor-in-training, or CIT, at her summer camp, where she would help the counselors with the younger first-time campers for a week. In 2018, Emily became a counselor at the camp and worked there for the summers of 2018 and 2019. In 2020, Emily received a phone call for a job she had interviewed for and turned down a year ago, asking her to go and work there. Believing that this was a message from God, she went to Tahoe, California, to work for the summer. While working at that job, Emily was told that women could not be pastors for the church and was not allowed to share the message of Scripture with the children she was working with. Even when a kid walked up to her and directly asked her a question, the kid was taken away from her, and the question was shut down. This deeply hurt Emily and even caused her to walk away from the church for the rest of the summer. Upon her return to her hometown, the associate pastor and her old camp counselor took her out to lunch and offered her the job as an intern for the youth group. During this lunch, Emily realized that the church was good, and that her experience, while not uncommon, was not what or who the church truly was. This experience in Tahoe gave her the reason and passion for the work she hopes to do within the church, and in her goal to reach those who are not comfortable in the church due to past church hurt.

In 2022, Emily received her Bachelor's in Science degree in Elementary Education at McNeese State University, while she also worked as a substitute teacher and taught 2nd grade. She continued to teach post-graduation as an art teacher at the local elementary school and began serving as the Assistant Youth Director in the local church. Emily continued to follow her calling, which led her to work in Oxford, Mississippi at Oxford University United Methodist Church, where she helped with the 456, 4th-6th grade program. When Emily was growing up, she loved going to camp and later became a camp counselor. Her work at the camp and at OUUMC helped her to realize her call into ministry. Emily is currently a certified candidate for ordination in the Mississippi Conference, with the hope of being ordained as an Elder in the future. Emily feels called to bring the local church out into the world and reimagine what church on a Sunday morning could look like. In her free time, she enjoys cooking, sewing, hiking, and reading.

## **NEW AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

### **1K for 1KID Day**

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, October 5th** as we hold our annual 1K for 1Kid Day at Walnut Grove UMC. We hope to be joined that day by Donna Tate and former WGUMC intern Avery Edwards as we learn about, celebrate and support the ministries for the Methodist Home for Children. Sunday School and Worship will have opportunities to hear about this great ministry of our connectional Church. After Church, we will gather outside to walk or run 1 Kilometer around the Church property. As part of our offering and walk that day, we hope to gather at least 1K (\$1000) of financial support for the Methodist Home.

If you would like more information, or can assist in the setup of the walk that day, contact Wesley Tilley at 919-749-0173 or [wesley.tilley@alumni.duke.edu](mailto:wesley.tilley@alumni.duke.edu)

### **Sunday Night Meal Sign-up and RSVP:**

If you want to cook AND/OR eat a meal this fall at Sunday night Bible study, you need to sign up!

Sign up [HERE](#) to cook a meal (just 4 slots remain)

[RSVP HERE](#) for which meals you and your family plan to eat.

### **Young Adult Sunday School Class**

A new Sunday School class for young adults has begun. We will be meeting in Lauren's office or in the modular depending on the a/c situation. We may be starting a little after 9:30am. Please feel free to join us.

~Daniel Johnson

### **Operation Christmas Child**

Hello Walnut Grove Family,

Shoobox packing time is here!

We will be packing shoeboxes in small groups this year. Since we will be packing in the modular, space is limited to 8 people at a time.

If you would like to volunteer for one of the dates and times listed below, please contact Jeanne Crabtree or Kimberly Gilbert.

Tuesday, September 23rd -- 7 PM

Tuesday, September 30th – 7 PM

Tuesday, October 7th – 7 PM

If you are unable to participate in the shoebox packing and would like to contribute toward Operation Christmas Child, we are in need of shipping expenses in the amount of \$10.00 per shoebox. You may write a check to Samaritan's Purse and get it to Jeanne Crabtree or Kimberly Gilbert OR you can write a check to Walnut Grove UMC and mark it for "OCC" on the subject line.

Blessings to each of you!

Jeanne Crabtree (919) 302-6924 (call or text)

Kimberly Gilbert (919) 924-9294 (call or text)



# Walnut Grove UMC HARVEST FESTIVAL

Saturday  
October 18th

**\*This & That pre-priced table  
open 10:30-1:30**

**\*Lunch & Take Out: 11:30**

**\*Live Auction: 1:30**

**BBQ: \$12.00 lb.  
Stew: \$12.00 qt.**

**LUNCH PLATES INCLUDE:  
BBQ, STEW, SLAW, HUSHPUPPIES,  
DRINK AND A DESSERT**

**ADULT PLATE: \$15.00  
CHILD'S PLATE: \$6.00  
8YRS AND YOUNGER**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**  
7215 Walnut Grove Church Road

## OCIM Update

They are in need of:

Food items: canned fruit, jelly, soups, beef stew, spaghetti sauce, mac & cheese, cereal, rice (small bags).

Non-food items: toothpaste, laundry pods, toilet paper, diapers (size 4)

Thank you to all who have donated money as well as the actual cans of food and veggies, plus the above items. Thank you all so much for your participation.

The poster features a dark maroon background with a pattern of gold-colored leaf outlines. The text "OCIM 2025 FALL FEST" is prominently displayed in large, bold, gold-colored letters. A white, torn-paper-like shape is cut out from the bottom right of the text area. Below the title, a horizontal gold line separates the header from the event details. The event details are listed in white text on the left and right sides of the poster. The date and time are in large white letters on the right, and the location is in smaller white letters below it.

# OCIM 2025 FALL FEST

Join the **OCIM THRIFT SHOP** for our **FALL FESTIVAL CELEBRATION!**

- BAKED GOODS
- ART WALK (NEW THIS YEAR)
- ANTIQUES - POTTERY - JEWELRY
- STORE COUPON BUNDLES ON SALE NOW - \$5
- SILENT AUCTION ITEMS

**ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT MEALS ON WHEELS**

For more information, contact Bernadette at 919-732-6194 ext. 21.

OCTOBER 18

**9 AM – 2 PM**

300 MILSTONE DRIVE

HILLSBOROUGH, NC 27278



## **Opportunities and Work Days with Disaster Ministry**

Deployment dates for Corridor Early Response Team. To volunteer or if you have any questions, please contact Jim Polhamus at [jbuspolhamusii@gmail.com](mailto:jbuspolhamusii@gmail.com). Please prayerfully consider joining us and mark your calendars below:

**Oct 9 - 11**, LTRG10, Columbus Co, NC - (Leland Disaster Center, Zion UMC Parsonage, Leland, NC) - open to ERT and non ERT members

## **Little River Presbyterian Church "BBQ Pork Supper"**

Little River Presbyterian Church is delighted to return to its eat-in or take out "BBQ Pork Supper" Saturday, Sept. 27, 4-7:00 pm @ Schley Grange Hall. Dinner includes BBQ Pork, hushpuppies, slaw, potatoes, homemade desserts & beverages.

Sandwiches will be available for lunch 11am-4pm, behind the Grange near the ball field.

Eat-in or take-out

Lunch: BBQ sandwich-\$7.00

Dinner: Adult plates- \$15.00

Children's plates (6 and under) \$5.00 (eat-in only)

BBQ by the container- \$12.00

Pre-orders are encouraged by Sept 21. ([919-732-6523](tel:919-732-6523)/[lrpcusa@gmail.com](mailto:lrpcusa@gmail.com))

Preorder pick up at Schley Grange, 4-7pm, Sept 27

All proceeds will go to support Western North Carolina Disaster Recovery Efforts.

## **Tithes and Offerings**

We now have five ways to give to our ministries. If you would like your offering to be allocated towards a specific ministry, please indicate it in the memo of your check or you will be prompted on the website.

1. Give during our weekly Worship Services.
2. Mail in a check to 7215 Walnut Grove Church Road, Hurdle Mills, NC 27541.
3. Use our church [website](#). Click GIVE in the upper right corner.
4. Use our "My Church" mobile app. Click GIVE in the lower right corner.
5. Use our Vanco QR Code, which you can find on the back of the Sunday bulletins or right here in the weekly *In A Nutshell*.

## **Vanco QR Code**

As we continually adapt to the gift of technology, Walnut Grove now has a Vanco QR code provided on the back of the bulletin and in the Nutshell for online giving. Simply hold your phone or tablet's camera over the code for the link to Vanco. You may also access the link on our website for convenient giving. Alternatively, cash or check contributions continue to be accepted through our tithes and offerings. Your generosity helps us continue serving Christ and reaching out to our community in mission and faithful witness.



## **JOYS & CONCERNS**

### **Prayer List**

- Leo Brooks Populorum (7 Months old), from Pittsboro, has very serious health issues. Leo is the grandson of John and Judy Guibert who are friends of Beverly Huey.
- Katherine Huey, with health issues. She is Rick Huey's mom.
- Family of Justin and Casey McBroom, relatives of Cheryl L. Parker. Please keep their young children, Anderson, Jaxon, and Kason, in prayer in the passing of their parents.
- Joan Bickel who lives in Dallas TX. She has been diagnosed with brain cancer. She is Erica Nading's aunt.
- Shannon Brown, friend of Kristin Rigsbee
- Ben Lloyd, Cheryl Humphrey's father, with serious health issues
- Iris Tilley, recuperating from a recent fall
- Gilbert Lee in Prince George, VA, who recently had surgery for cancer. He is Richard Lee's father
- Gene Parker, brother of Dorothy Roberts, uncle of Mike Roberts, and family of Debbie Oakley and Sue Powell
- Craig Powell, brother of Ed Powell, with health problems
- Maria Guerrero, mother in-law of Alejandro Rivas, Duke intern, as she deals with terminal illness.
- Herbert and JoAnn Cates, both with health issues. They are members of Walnut Grove UMC.
- Jerry Forrester, bilateral lung cancer
- Liz Matthews, friend of Katie Whitaker
- Debbie Langdale diagnosed with stage 5 kidney disease, waiting for transplant. Friend of John and Brooke Sherron
- Kelly Schoch, with brain cancer. She is co-worker of Erica Nading
- Will Hall, of Cedar Grove, NC with serious health issues- son of Billy Hall and Lynn Clark, nephew of Tommy Hall and Lorraine Parker, cousin of James Parker.
- Kathy Kimrey with health concerns. She is the sister-in-law of Lorraine Hines and Pam Kimrey.

### **From The Mailbox**

Dear Ladies,

I cannot thank you enough for the beautiful quilt made for me, requested by my daughter-in-law, Kimberly Cook Gilbert, and given to me in August. I have seen your beautiful craftsmanship in other quilts presented to my family but was never fortunate enough to receive one myself. To think that you ladies took time out of your daily lives to craft one for me is humbling and I appreciate it more than you can know. More importantly, I so believe in what it represents – the power of prayer. God has been the cornerstone of my existence for many, many years and I have seen the healing and wonders of his grace, and I have no doubt that he will accompany me as I walk this journey. Thank you again for your love, concern and prayers, and God smile upon all of you as you continue your wonderful sharing of God's love.

With Heartfelt Thanks,  
Debbie Gilbert Stitt

## **Birthdays**

Friday 9/19 – Lynne Cecil, Matthew Dean, Tiffany Riley, Avery Robinson

Saturday 9/20 – Tony Clayton

Monday 9/22 – Nancy Huskins, Teresa Long, Erin Rutledge Dillard

Tuesday 9/23 – Michael Powell, Melissa Powell, Machtolff, Nita Trembley, Audrey Lee

Wednesday 9/24 – Arron Swiggett, Leah Gates

Thursday 9/25 – Emily Privette, Anita James

Saturday 9/27 – Cathy Boling, Claiborne Roberts, Jackson Rodgers

If your birthday is incorrect or missing, please contact Kim at the church office at 919-732-5722 or by email at [office@walnutgroveumc.org](mailto:office@walnutgroveumc.org) so we can update our records.

## **STAYING CONNECTED**

[WG YouTube](#)

[WG Facebook](#)

[Website](#)

## **Serving in Worship**

### **September 21st**

Acolytes: Anna Robinson/Russell Whitaker

Greeters: Dan & LuAnne Bledsoe

Ushers: Dan & LuAnne Bledsoe

Scripture: Erica Nading

Nursery: Faith Parker/Margaret Williams

Trustee Open/Close: Patty Maseth

PM Nursery: Cheryl L Parker/Lorraine Hines

Financial Rep: Judy Butler

### **September 28th**

Acolytes: Eleanor Whitaker/Corbin Smith

Greeters: Chris & Cathy Boling

Ushers: Tyler & Stephanie Smith

Scripture: Ashley Parker

Nursery: Mary Emma Roberts/Stephanie Smith

Trustee Open/Close: Sharyn Gates

Financial Rep: Emma Beckham

PM Nursery: Ashley Parker/Cathy Boling

## **Mowing Schedule**

September 20- Johnny & Shirley Clayton

September 27- Chris Boling

October 11- Jimmy Berry

October 25- Todd Harris

October 4- Phil Hines

October 18- Bruce Richardson

November 1- Mike Parker

**NOTE:** If you're unable to serve in your role listed above, please find someone to serve in your place and notify the church secretary of the change. This will allow us to have an updated listing to publish each week.

## Upcoming Happenings

Saturday, September 20	Cook Day for Harvest Festival (chicken)
Sunday, September 21	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 5:30pm Dinner 6:00pm - 7:00pm Kids Krew, Youth, Adult Bible Study, Nursery
Tuesday, September 23	7:00pm Shoebox packing
Wed., September 24	6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir
Fri-Sat., September 26-27	Walnut Grove Crafters
Saturday, September 27	TarWheels will be using the parking lot
Sunday, September 28	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 10:45am Children's Church 5:30pm Dinner 6:00pm - 7:00pm Kids Krew, Youth, Adult Bible Study, Nursery
Monday, September 29	6:30pm Covenant Council meeting
Tuesday, September 30	6:30pm Harvest Festival meeting 7:00pm Men's Group 7:00 pm Shoebox packing

See You Sunday!!