

I have a good friend who thinks very deeply about the world. He grew up in church and, like me, enjoys debating the big intellectual questions about faith. This week, he's been discussing one of the toughest questions: Why did Christians in history do such horrible things to each other? Was there something in Scripture that led them to do that?

I could hear in his voice almost this sense of panic. He wanted to keep reading, studying, and plumbing the academic world until he found his answers. And while there's certainly a place for that (I am in seminary, after all!), I couldn't help but feel he was missing something.

"Jonathan," I said, "Christianity isn't just a historical or intellectual religion. It's also a living, breathing thing. The Gospel can't just be studied; it must be experienced as well." I shared with him something my church history professor said last semester: "Academic history is written about the beginning and end of things, which can make church history seem like an endless stream of fights, fissures and failures. But the majority of church history happens in the middle, in the lives of everyday people loving and serving God, changing their world for the better and often receiving no higher recognition than that of their Creator. Theirs is a picture of Christianity that's perhaps more 'accurate' and certainly more beautiful than any textbook could capture."

That's what my time here at Walnut Grove UMC has shown me. Although we live in the midst of "big" history, the kind that will go in our grandchildren's textbooks, each one of us is also creating our own "small" history of everyday actions and everyday love. This might not make it into the history books or headline news, but its impact is deeper, truer and longer lasting than we can imagine. The daily lived experience of Christians like you encourages me when I feel overwhelmed by the past or the future. I hope it encourages you too. May we each strive to leave legacies that outlive the headlines and the history books but are eternal in Christ.

~Lauren Welch

NEW AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Fifth Sunday Opportunities – Penny Push

9:30am - Sunday School Opening followed by Joint Adult SS class

10:30am - Songfest during Worship

Only one Sunday left of the Penny Push! This spare change fundraising drive takes the place of the usual 5th Sunday canned food drive for OCIM donations this month, and the winning Sunday School class will claim the Samaritan Class of the Month banner. Last week alone we raised well over over one hundred dollars, bringing our total to \$184.86 with one Sunday left to go! Congratulations to the FLOCK class, whose donation of \$90.67 last week alone has launched them to the lead of the competition.

If you are able to this week, please count your change ahead of time so that we can quickly add up the totals per class on Sunday morning. We would love to announce the winner during our all-church Sunday School gathering!

Music Ministry Update - 5th Sunday SONGFEST

This Sunday, July 30th, we will have our quarterly SONGFEST during the 10:30 service. We will be singing lots of songs, all of which you have requested. If we don't sing your request, stay tuned for the next 5th Sunday SONGFEST on October 29th (and the Sundays in-between). If you would like to request a song, add it to the Song Request sheet on the music stand outside the door to the choir room in the Fellowship Hall. We'll see (and hear) you on Sunday!

Ticket To Ride

The Carpenters and Beatles sang a song, "Ticket to Ride." It's a great tune w/the Carpenters' version going, "Think I'm going to be sad.... he's got a ticket to ride and he don't care." Well we do care and as loving family of faith and want to ensure everyone has a "ticket to ride" to church. It has been brought to our attention that we have a few folks who could use rides to the church on Sunday morning. Please let one of our interns, Abby or Lauren, Kim at the church office, or Pastor Laura know if you are interested in helping drive a person (s) to church so that they might have a "ticket to ride."

Travel to the Billy Graham Library and "The Real Christmas Story"

Saturday, December 16, 2023

Jean Mangum is coordinating a Holiday Tours' bus trip to The Billy Graham Library and to Martin & Clark's "The Real Christmas Story" on Saturday, December 16th. The cost is \$135 per person. This is a one day trip to Charlotte, NC. Lunch is on your own, but the Narrowway production of the Christmas story includes dinner: Oven-roasted turkey breast, creamy mashed potatoes, brown gravy, Christmas dressing, cranberry sauce, garden green beans, fresh, warm yeast rolls w/butter, homemade pumpkin pie with whipped topping and sweet iced tea or water.

Before attending the dinner theatre, we will travel to The Billy Graham Library (Home - The Billy Graham Library). Jean needs to know how many people are interested by July 29th to get tickets. The bus will pick us up at Walnut Grove UMC. Be there at 9:00 a.m. The bus will leave at 9:30 a.m. We should be back at the church by 10:00 p.m. More information will be provided soon, but she needs to know who is interested as soon as possible.

OCIM Update

OCIM pantry shelves are getting very low as the need has been high. Please remember to bring can goods for OCIM Pantry. As you can see the shelves are looking bare. We are grateful for our community and all of its continued support. Thank you!



Tithes and Offerings

We have four 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 online giving app "Vanco Mobile".

JOYS & CONCERNS

Prayer List

- Family of Rocky Wilkerson who passed away. He was Charles Tilley's nephew and Wesley Tilley's cousin.
- Family of Tammy Owens in the passing of her mother.
- Peggy Bledsoe, health issues. She is Dan Bledsoe's mom.
- Pat Sykes
- Debbie Haywood (cancer treatments), friend of Ann and Bruce Richardson.
- Dana Kimrey. He is the brother of Lorraine Hines.

Send A Card

Charles Tilley (Sympathy), 2701 Little River Church Road, Hurdle Mills, NC 27541

Wesley Tilley (Sympathy), 2700 Little River Church Road, Hurdle Mills, NC 27541

Tammy Owens (Sympathy), 90 Parnell Lane, Hurdle Mills, NC 27541

Quilts

Betty Parker Roberts who is having health issues. She is the wife of Claiborne Roberts and mother of Debbie Gates.

The quilt will be in the Fellowship Hall. You're invited to tie a knot and say a prayer over it.

From The Mailbox

I am so very thankful for the beautiful prayer quilt (No. 2023-30) that you and the members of the Prayers & Squares Ministry made for me. My friend, Emma Beckham, asked for prayers for me for my recent hip replacement surgery, which went very well. I definitely felt the healing power of the prayers that were offered for me as the square knots were tied. The quilt is a lovely work of art and love from the hands of your Walnut Grove crafters. Please thank each of them for me. Please accept the enclosed to help further your Prayers & Squares Ministry for many that are in need of comfort and encouragement. Sincerely, Francine Durso.

Thank you for the prayer quilt you sent me prior to my hip replacement surgery. It proved to be a comfort for my body and soul. Sincerely, Margaret Cooley.

Dear Walnut Grove crafters. Thank you so much for the prayer quilt. It is so beautiful. I plan on taking it to the hospital for my second round of treatment. Sarah Lankford.

Gary and I are incredibly grateful to have found such an amazing community! From your unending warm welcome, to the friendships being built, the care and concern for my well-being during the time of illness (and all those encouraging and uplifting cards that I appreciate so, so much), to the blessing of your beautiful prayer quilt for my mom and the support you all so selflessly have extended. You are all a blessing and true gifts from our mighty Lord! We are grateful, thankful, and blessed for each and every one of you! Prayerfully, Gary & Stacey Spake.

To the Ladies of the Prayers & Squares Ministry of the Walnut Grove United Methodist Church. Thank you so very much for the beautiful hand-made quilt and all the prayers and best wishes that come with it. I am so happy that my daughter Stacey and her husband Gary have found such fellowship in your church! Your prayers are certainly needed and appreciated. Thank you all again so very much! Love, Valerie Moore.

Upcoming Birthdays

Friday 7/28 – Carley Parker

Saturday 7/29 – Sonja Tilley, Keith Taylor

Sunday 7/30 – Callie Smith

Monday 7/31 – Mike Clayton, Evan Dement

Wednesday 8/2 – Paul Beck, Jeff Clayton

Thursday 8/3 – Jennifer Woods, Barbara Parker

Saturday 8/5 – Cain Roberts, RJ Roemmich

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 so we can update our records.

STAYING CONNECTED

[WG YouTube](#)

[WG Facebook](#)

[Website!](#)

[Sign UpHere! For Online Sign-Up](#)

Serving in Worship

July 30th

Acolytes: Michael Roberts/Isabella Conway

Greeters: Pat Beck/Jenny Blalock

Ushers: Tyler & Stephanie Smith

Nursery: Cathy Boling/Judy Butler

Scripture Reader: Mary Emma Roberts

Trustee Open/Close: Jimmy Berry

August 6th

Acolytes: Anna Robinson/Kennedy Dunlap

Greeters: Dan & LuAnne Bledsoe

Ushers: Dan & LuAnne Bledsoe

Nursery: Ashley Parker/Debby Donnelly

Scripture Reader: Lorraine Parker

Trustee Open/Close: Judy Parker

Mowing Schedule

July 29 – Todd Harris

August 5 – Mike Parker

August 19 - Scott Humphrey

August 12 – Merle Terry

August 26 - Barry Walker

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

Sunday, July 30	9:30am Sunday School Opening Joint Sunday School (Adults) 10:30am SONGFEST Service
Tuesday, August 1	11:00am Workout Class in pool at Linda's house 7:00pm Worship Committee Meeting
Wednesday, August 2	6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir

Thursday, August 3	11:00am Workout Class in pool at Linda's house
Sunday, August 6	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service
Tuesday, August 8	11:00am Workout Class in pool at Linda's house
Wednesday, August 9	10:00am Mary Martha Busy Ladies 6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir
Thursday, August 10	11:00am Workout Class in pool at Linda's house
Sunday, August 13	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 10:45am Children's Church 11:45 Kids & Youth Pizza & Bowling
Tuesday, August 15	11:00am Workout Class in pool at Linda's house
Thursday, August 17	11:00am Workout Class in pool at Linda's house
Sunday, August 20	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service
Tuesday, August 22	11:00am Workout Class in pool at Linda's house
Wednesday, August 23	6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir
Thursday, August 24	11:00am Workout Class in pool at Linda's house
Fri-Sat, August 25-26	Walnut Grove Crafters
Sunday, August 27	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 10:45am Children's Church
Monday, August 28	7:00pm Covenant Council meeting

Tuesday, August 29 11:00am Workout Class in pool at Linda's house

Wednesday, August 30 6:30pm Worship Band
7:00pm Worship Choir

Thursday, August 31 11:00am Workout Class in pool at Linda's house

See You Sunday!!