

You may have noticed that we've got quite a thing for poetry going on this summer. Between our weekly Poetry in the Park video series on Facebook and our sermon series on the Psalms, we as a community have the opportunity to spend a great deal of time enjoying poetry. It's a common misconception that poetry has to be written in rhyming verse with particular attention to how many syllables there are in each line. The poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge wrote that poetry is, "the best words in the best order." That is one good and valid form of poetry, and there are countless beautiful poems in this style, but I invite you to think about other forms of poetry you might encounter in your day-to-day life.

I am partial to thinking about poetry the way that Anne of Green Gables did. There's a particular moment in one book that finds Anne and her friend Diana playing near a stream. Anne points out the way a sunbeam plays over the swirling water and asks Diana, "Look, do you see that poem?" In that moment, both Diana and the reader realize that Anne's famously vivid imagination allows her to understand poetry as something that cannot be limited to words—even the best ones, in the best order. I've been trying to cultivate a poetic imagination like Anne's in the last few years.

It's easy to see a sunbeam as a poem, or the rustling of leaves on a tree right outside my window. I sometimes have to stretch myself to imagine that the sound of my friends' laughter, the feeling of dirt under my nails, the scent of a freshly peeled orange... these are all, in their own ways, poetry. There is also poetry in the sad moments of life. There is poetry when I see something I wish I could tell to a friend with whom I've lost touch. There is almost always poetry when people's eyes well up as they talk about loved ones who have gone on. There is poetry in rage.

Whether or not you realize it, you've been writing, eating, feeling, hearing, living poems every day. I pray that as our time of thinking intentionally about poetry continues, the Holy Spirit would continue to guide you to notice and give thanks for the poetic experiences in this life.

~Abby Muehlstein

### **NEW AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

#### **VBS Update**

Join us for Vacation Bible School and help us "Shine Jesus' light!" Sunday, July 16-Wednesday, July 19<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:30. Dinner is served at 5:30 and each night the program runs from 6:00-7:30.

Wednesday night, we will have ice cream at 7:30 as well. Kids from nursery age to rising fifth graders are welcome to attend. No preregistration is necessary. Please contact Ashley Parker

([ashleymorganparker@gmail.com](mailto:ashleymorganparker@gmail.com) or 919-475-5211) with any questions or to volunteer for this year's phenomenal fun-filled VBS experience.

### **Mary Martha Busy Ladies - Next Meeting: Thursday July 20th**

We will meet at church at 10:30 a.m. for a short meeting. The devotion will be provided by Iris Tilley. We will leave the church (carpooling) for The Homestead Steak House, 205 Frank Timberlake Road, Timberlake, NC 27583, by 11:00 a.m. to be there by the 11:30 a.m. reservation time. It is important that we reserve for an accurate number of people attending. We will have our own room. The meal is \$15.00 (buffet) and includes the meal, a drink and the tip. RSVP by July 12th to Sue Powell at 919-819-0344 or [suepowell0504@gmail.com](mailto:suepowell0504@gmail.com)

### **Fifth Sunday Opportunities – Penny Push**

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

#### **10:30am - Songfest during Worship**

One of our interns, Abby Muehlstein, shared a ministry idea from her home church in TX called a Penny Push. A Penny Push encourages kids and people of all ages to bring in pocket change in a fun, competitive fundraiser. This July, we will do a Sunday School Penny Push to raise money for a donation to OCIM. From now until the end of July, bring your spare change each week to donate in the white Penny Push box in your Sunday School classroom. If you aren't a regular Sunday School attender, you can choose any class to donate to! We'll give regular updates on the competition so you can keep track of your class's progress. **The Penny Push will take the place of the usual 5th Sunday can drive, and the winning class will get to claim the Samaritan Class of the Month banner.** This will occur during the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday SS Opening followed by a Joint Adult SS Class. Finally, we will have an opportunity to exercise our singing voices during the 10:30 Songfest Worship Service with songs that have been requested by you.

### **Music Ministry Update**

A big thank you for your prayers and financial gifts that helped support this year's Music and Worship Arts Week at Lake Junaluska, NC with our group from Walnut Grove UMC in attendance. We had seven rising 3rd through 9th graders in attendance and three adult chaperones. We rented a van in advance as our church van is having issues currently that make it unsafe to drive. We had a little adventure at the end of the trip with the rental van breaking down; however the trip altogether was wonderful! We began each morning with breakfast and worship and closed down each (almost every night) with devotions. Our kids learned new pieces of music, participated in the talent show with the ever popular "Church Clap" dance, and enjoyed the confections of the Crepe and Custard Cafe on the grounds (among other nearby sweet shops). Mark your calendars for next year's Music and Worship Arts Week being held June 23rd to June 28th!



Hey Orange Cooperative Parish!

Pack some love for our Literacy Camp students! They're working hard this summer, so let's help them start the school year off right with the supplies they need to succeed! Our students are K-2 students, and we would love good-quality, new donations of:

Crayons and washable markers

Colored pencils

Wide-ruled composition notebooks and paper

#2 pencils, erasers, and sharpeners

Kid-sized headphones

Kid scissors

Washable glue sticks

Hand sanitizer

Dry-erase markers for the classroom

Donations are needed by July 16<sup>th</sup>!

### **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".

### **Budget News as of end of second quarter**

Year to Date Income - \$ 95,443.22

Year to Date Expenses - \$ 108,264.67

Difference - \$12,821.45

## **JOYS & CONCERNS**

### **Prayer List**

- Pansy Williams, health issues. She is Lou Rutledge's mom.
- 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**

Mary Blalock (Loss of her brother), 1525 Hawkins Road, Hurdle Mills, NC 27541

Emma Beckham (Recent loss of her niece) 8919 Wilkerson Road, Cedar Grove, NC 27231

### **Quilt**

Valerie Moore from Randleman, NC who has been diagnosed with 2 types of colon cancer. Mrs. Moore is the mother of Stacey Spake.

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

### **Upcoming Birthdays**

Saturday 7/8 – Kasen Dean, Kara Roberts

Monday 7/10 – Collin Beck, Julie Blalock Walker, Bennett Lockamy, Zachary Rodgers

Wednesday 7/12 – Donna Hamlet, Clay Parker

Thursday 7/13 – Kim Gilbert, Norman Jones, Scott Roberts, Austin Vuolo

Friday 7/14 – Allison Wright

Saturday 7/15 – Tammy Owens

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!](#)

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

### **Serving in Worship**

#### **July 9th**

Acolytes: Anna Robinson/Eleanor Whitaker

Greeters: Faith Parker/Judy Parker

Ushers: Grace Dunlap/Patty Maseth

Nursery: Cheryl S. Parker/Laurie Rogers

Scripture Reader: Margaret Anne Dow

Trustee Open/Close: Cheryl Humphrey

## **July 16th**

Acolytes: Corbin Smith/Isaac Conway

Greeters: Mary Emma Roberts/Dale Smithson

Ushers: Jimmy & Brenda Berry

Nursery: Faith Parker/Margaret Williams

Scripture Reader: Grace Dunlap

Trustee Open/Close: Laura Dunlap

## **Mowing Schedule**

July 8 – Phil Hines

July 15 – Jimmy Berry

July 22 – Bruce Richardson

July 29 – Todd Harris

**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 9	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 10:45am Children's Church
Tuesday, July 11	11:00am Workout Class in pool at Linda's house
Thursday, July 13	11:00am Workout Class in pool at Linda's house
Sunday, July 16	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service
Sun – Wed. July 16 – 19	Vacation Bible School (5:30pm Dinner, 6:00-7:30 Program)
Tuesday, July 18	11:00am Workout Class in pool at Linda's house
Wednesday, July 19	7:30pm Worship Choir
Thursday, July 20	10:30am Mary Martha Busy Ladies meeting 11:30am Lunch at the Homestead, RSVP by July 12th w/Sue
Thursday, July 20	11:00am Workout Class in pool at Linda's house
Fri-Sat, July 21-22	Walnut Grove Crafters

Sunday, July 23	9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 10:45am Children's Church
Tuesday, July 25	11:00am Workout Class in pool at Linda's house
Wednesday, July 26	6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm Worship Choir
Thursday, July 27	11:00am Workout Class in pool at Linda's house
Sunday, July 30	9:30am Sunday School Opening Joint Sunday School (Adults) 10:30am SONGFEST Service

See You Sunday!!