

About halfway through Vacation Bible School, I had to have a little chat with the group I helped usher around between activity stations. The kids, who are all incredibly smart, were having a hard time suspending their disbelief – that is, watching with imagination rather than nitpicking for reality – during the Bible lessons rotation. Faith Parker, dressed in costume to read stories, was lovingly heckled: “That’s not Mary, that’s my babysitter!” and on another occasion, “Hey, Jesus didn’t wear an Apple watch!” Their attention to detail was impressive (and laugh-out-loud funny), but I think that on a deeper level, there’s a lesson here for us all.

If I suspend my disbelief, I can see Jesus in the faces of many people who wear Apple watches – and, of course, many who do not. I saw the familiar generosity of Jesus in the dozens of volunteers who brought food, supplies, and their own hands to help out with VBS this week. I spotted some of Jesus’s theological musings in questions posed by surprisingly young kids. I recognized Mary, the one who brought the Word into the world, in the way that kids and adults of all ages talked about sharing the word of God. I also saw Mary in all the families who nurture these growing children, just as Mary nurtured the growth of Jesus when he, too, was only a child.

When we suspend our disbelief and look imaginatively at those around us, the presence of the living God that dwells in each of us becomes clear. May we have the grace to see it each and every day.

~ Abby Muehlstein

### **NEW AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

#### **Harvest Festival Meeting – July 25th**

Hello HF Exploratory Team 23!

We’ve received some answers regarding proceeding with Harvest Festival in October, so we are scheduling a “Next Steps” meeting. It’s set for Tuesday, July 25 at 7:00 at WGUMC in the fellowship hall.

Please plan on attending and making a report on your findings so that we can begin to solidify our plans.

Please share this info with others who may have missed the first meeting...I know that folks are travelling over the summer, and may not have been able to attend earlier this month.

Thanks so much for your service to Walnut Grove and your willingness to work together to get our Harvest Festival up and running again!

Cheryl S. Parker

“Reluctant” Chair of HF 23

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

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

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

We've reached the halfway point with our Penny Push! This spare change fundraising drive will take 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. As of this week, we have raised \$71.29 total for donation to OCIM, as well as a 5 cent Euro coin and a French 1/2 franc (which has not been legal tender since 2002). The Women's Sunday School class meeting in the parlor maintained their lead with an additional donation of \$40.44 this week!

You can continue to donate your pocket, cupholder, and couch cushion change at the Penny Push donation box in the Sunday school class of your choice throughout July. U.S. currency is preferred.

## **Music Ministry Update**

VBS Music - The children had a great time learning new songs this week! As a special treat, you will have an opportunity to hear some of their music this Sunday during the 10:30am worship service. They should definitely give you a glimpse of this week's theme, "shining God's light" as they sing.

5th Sunday SONGFEST on July 30th - It's almost time for another Sunday of singing! A number of songs have been requested and plans are underway to sing as many as possible. If your song didn't make the list this time, stay tuned (pun intended) for the next 5th Sunday which is on October 29th. As always, Song Request sheets are on the music stand outside the door to the choir room in the Fellowship Hall. We'll see (and hear) you on the 30th!

## **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**

- 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.

### **Upcoming Birthdays**

Saturday 7/22 – Jessica Young, Frank Simmons, Bryan Guy, Charles Merritt

Sunday 7/23 – Lorraine Parker, Tommy Hall, Benny McFalls

Monday 7/24 – Donnie Crabtree, Jesse Whitaker

Tuesday 7/25 – Ashley Ford, Tony Larry Rigsbee, Jr.

Wednesday 7/26 – Linda Clayton, Abby Lee

Thursday 7/27 – Claire Overcash, Michael Roberts

Friday 7/28 – Carley Parker

Saturday 7/29 – Sonja Tilley, Keith Taylor

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 23rd**

Acolytes: Kennedy Dunlap/Gracie Hall

Greeters: Tyler & Stephanie Smith

Ushers: Phil & Lorraine Hines

Nursery: Grace Dunlap/Katie Whitaker

Scripture Reader: Cheryl S. Parker

Trustee Open/Close: Johnny Clayton

## **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

## **Mowing Schedule**

July 22 – Bruce Richardson

August 5 – Mike Parker

August 19 - Scott Humphrey

July 29 – Todd Harris

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**

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

7:00pm Harvest Festival Meeting

Wednesday, July 26

6:30pm Worship Band

7:00pm Worship Choir

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!!