

July

July Events

- 7th 8:30am UMW Breakfast
12:15pm Nominations Committee
- 8th 6:00pm Trustees Meeting
- 15th 7:00pm Movie Night
- 16th 5:30pm Nurture Committee
- 17th 5:30pm Finance Committee
- 20th 7:00am Hazel Creek Paddle Trip
- 21st 12:15pm Church Council
- 28th 8:00am UMM Breakfast

Anniversaries:

- 1st Bob & Kristi Benson
- 4th Jerome & Tammy Mattox
- 7th David & Cathy Outlaw
- 30th David & Carolyn Russell

Birthdays:

- 1st Gwen Bushyhead
- 2nd Marilyn Gray
- 5th Jimmy Fisher
- 12th Timothy Smith
- 14th Sandra Garland
Ginny DeBord
- 17th Maegan Pedersen
- 19th Catherine Cuthbertson
- 21st Pauline Brawley
Allen Strait
- 22nd Brock Reece
- 25th Charlotte Frees
- 26th Bradley Adams
- 29th Kim Cunningham
Ruth English

Weekly Events

Sundays:

- River of Life 8:30 AM
- Sunday School 9:45 AM
- Worship Service 10:55 AM
- Stone Soup 5:00 PM

Wednesdays:

- Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM

Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday
9 AM – 12 NOON

THE UPPER ROOM

DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Thoughts about Prayer:

Every hour offers opportunities to pray. – July 3

The psalms can teach us to pray honestly. – July 15

Don't forget to pick-up your free copy of The Upper Room in the narthex or back hall.

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July 2013



Newsletter



Laity Award Presentation

Read more on page three of this newsletter.

Want more photos? [See More](#) on our website.



Memo from the Midbar



Freedom

At the beginning of July each year we celebrate Independence Day and are reminded of the freedoms each of us enjoys in this country.

Since the beginning of our scrappy country, our forefathers recognized the need to celebrate the sacrifices of the men and women that have made these freedoms.

In an intimate letter to his wife, second President John Adams wrote to his wife that, "[Independence Day] ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more.

It seems that we do a good job with that whether we grill out at

home or spend the day at Freedom Fest including the wonderful fireworks show at the end of the day.

John Adams also mentioned that it should be a day that is "commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty."

The price for, and celebration of, freedom is not new to our country. In his letter to the Galatians Paul reminded the church in Galatians 5:1 (CEB) down through time that as Christians,

Christ has set us free for freedom. Therefore stand firm and don't submit to the bondage of slavery again.

Paul goes on to tell the church how we might be able to enjoy that freedom every day in our

relationships with each other by writing (13-14):

You were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only don't let this freedom be an opportunity to indulge your selfish impulses, but serve each other through love. All the Law has been fulfilled in a single statement: Love your neighbor as yourself.

Paul understood the challenges of being in a worshipping community of Christ and gives the church this added warning in verses 15, 17:

But if you bite and devour each other, be careful that you don't get eaten up by each other! A person's selfish desires are set against the Spirit, and the Spirit is set against one's selfish desires.

He continues to contrast, in dramatic fashion through the fifth chapter, between what the world and our culture teaches and living by the Spirit.

If we are living by the Spirit, our lives are filled with fruit more delightful than what even Shelton or Darnell Farms can

produce.

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Paul concludes with one final exhortation (vs 25):

"If we live by the Spirit, let's not become arrogant, make each other angry, or be jealous of each other."

In Paul's words we are reminded that true freedom is through Jesus Christ who paid the ultimate price so we can have peace, joy and eternal life. All we have to do is to follow Jesus and live by the Spirit.

As we celebrate our freedom together, let us thank the Lord that we live in a country where we still have our freedom.

May we be a people that are guided daily by the Spirit and live in the fullness of Jesus' words,

If the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

(John 8:36 NRS)

'13 Annual Conference

Greetings from Lake Junaluska and the 2013 Annual Conference of the Western North Carolina Conference. This is a time of spiritual renewal for delegates, including both clergy and laity, representing every church in our Western NC Conference gather for worship, fellowship, Bible study, encouragement and required reports & administrative needs.

The theme of this year's Annual Conference is "To Serve the Present Age," and focus on being actively engaged in missional outreach. Our text was from Micah 6:8

*Do justice
Love kindness
Walk humbly with your God*

Bishop Goodpaster challenged us to boldly go out beyond the walls of our churches to fulfill our mission of following Jesus, make disciples and transform the world.

Several inspirational sermons were delivered including:

Dr. Samuel H. Moore, Jr.
"Moving from an Empty Tomb Faith to a Resurrection Faith"

Bishop Kenneth Carter,
"A Future with Hope"
"The Other Side of the River"

Bishops Ward & Goodpaster
"Mission NC"

Bishop Peter Weaver
"Sign-ificant Ministry"

Shannon Sherfey, M.D.
"Invited, Welcomed, Included, and Loved"

Dr. Elaine Heath led three Bible Studies focused on moving outside our conventional walls to be communities of mission. Dr. Heath encouraged us to engage people in the community through outreach efforts. In a word, said, "Go!"

This is only a small taste of the week. Read more about the story, watch videos and click below to

[See More online.](#)



Church News

Church Council

The next church council meeting will be on Sunday, July 21 after the service.

We will be discussing old and new business including hearing more details about the new contemporary worship service. Everyone in our congregation is welcome to attend this meeting.

Trustees

There will be a trustees meeting at 6 pm on Monday, July 8 to discuss the Fellowship Hall kitchen renovation. Representatives from UMW and the Building Committee are asked to attend.

The trustees are grateful for everyone that helped on the June 29th work day painting the Fellowship Hall. Stop by and see the beautiful work that was done.

Nurture Committee

The next meeting will be July 16 at 5:30pm. The focus of the meeting will be to complete the final evaluation report for Andrew's summer ministries.

Finance Committee

The finance committee

will be meeting at 5:30pm on July 17.

UM Men

The next UMM breakfast will be Sunday, July 28 at 8am in the Fellowship Hall.

Join us for a time of sharing, devotional, fellowship and of course a hearty breakfast!

UM Women

The UMW will be meeting on Sunday, July 7 at 8:30am in the Fellowship Hall.

The group will enjoy breakfast and fellowship and encouraged with a morning devotional message. There will also be a lively discussion about the renovation of the Fellowship Hall kitchen.

New Printer / Copier

After the recent demise of the church copy machine the Church Council decided that it would be cheaper to buy a printer / copier that could be networked for all computers in the church.

It is estimated that due to the cost of printing each newsletter, the printer will pay for itself by the end of this year. In fact, this newsletter is the first thing printed on it!

Volunteers Needed

Cornerstone Living Center is looking for someone to volunteer their time and help provide haircuts for the residents. If you or someone you know would like to help, please contact Amy Dodson at Cornerstone Living Center at 488-2780 or on her cell 779-7184.

Love Offering

We will be collecting a love offering for our Duke Intern, Andrew Hammond, July 14 through 21. There will also be cards to sign for him located in the foyer and back hall.

Laity Service Award

Congratulations to Rick Colcord who was presented the 2013 Laity Service Award for 2013.

This award is not a surprise as Rick is well loved and respected by the congregation.

He manifests a servant heart and profound Spirit in all that he undertakes, whether he is walking the streets of Bryson City as Gingerbread Man, relating and making lots of little children happy (to help advertise the Women's annual cookie walk), or washing dishes at Church events, or reverently participating in

communion and healing services.

As the Chair of the Board of Trustees, Rick was instrumental in accomplishing the recent remodeling of our Fellowship Hall at the lowest possible cost to the congregation.

With Rick at the helm, the renovation was done with speed and finesse as he pulled together many and varied opinions. He collaborated with church members and contractors successfully so that ALL are pleased with the results.

Additionally, he quietly put in many hours of his own time to keep up with needed repairs without the desire for recognition.

That's a shame because Rick will be recognized by the Bishop for his service at the Gathering of the Laity at Lake Junaluska. Learn more about it on the next page article *Gathering of the Laity*.

Pray
Without Ceasing

Contemporary Worship Service

This is the first in a series of articles to keep you updated on the progress of our Contemporary Worship Service.

The Bryson City UMC is a fellowship of believers whose goal is to worship and demonstrate the Love of God by serving the needs of the community and the world in the name of Jesus Christ.

One new way we are seeking to serve the needs of the community for Christ is by providing a contemporary worship service designed around the needs of young families.

Some Fun Facts

- This is not a stand-alone ministry, but will be a service with a fresh style of worship.
- Although designed for young adults and families, everyone is welcome.
- Although different than our traditional worship service, the music will be done to the glory of God in a worshipful way.
- Our desire for those participating in this service is to faithfully participate in our

ministries through prayers, presence, gifts, and service.

Organizing Committee

We are currently putting together an organizing committee, which is a sub-committee of the Worship Committee.

Pastor Wayner will be leading the group that will primarily be made up of people that represent the demographic that we want the new worship service to speak to and through.

Also, Carole Maennle will represent the Missions Committee and Catherine Cuthbertson will offer guidance as chair of the Church Council.

What Can You Do?

Pray that God's Spirit would move through our community in new and fresh ways and that this and our other ministries would be guided by God and not be self-serving.

Ask Questions and if there is something that doesn't make sense or worries you, please share your questions and concerns with Pastor Wayner.

Help by sharing radical hospitality as we care for and support each other in ministry.

More Church News and Ministries

Church Directory

PLEASE: Don't forget to submit your picture or have Mikki or Pat take one for our church directory.

Free Dental Clinic

The Jackson County Department of Public Health is offering a free dental clinic July 12 & 13 starting at 6am in the Ramsey Center of WCU.

No appointment needed, first come first served. For more information, call 828-586-8994.

Gathering of the Laity

On August 9-11, Lake Junaluska will host the annual Gathering of the Laity for the Western NC Conference.

The Gathering" has become a summer tradition for many, who return year after year to be challenged by powerful speakers, to engage with others in worship and prayer, and to grow spiritually through times of personal study and reflection.

This year's theme is Transforming our communities, our churches, and our lives!"

The focus will be on the many ways we are challenged to live out our mission as disciples of Christ to make a difference in the world.

[See More online.](#)



Trip to Hazel Creek

Join us for our annual trip to Hazel Creek to experience some of God's most beautiful creation, share in fellowship, and get a little exercise.

As in the past, the group will paddle canoes, kayaks and paddleboards; however, this year we plan to have **motorboats** for those not able to paddle for six miles.

The trip is scheduled for Saturday, July 20. We will meet for breakfast at Bojangles at 7am or Cable Cove boat ramp at 8am.

For more information about the Hazel Creek trip contact the church office or

[See More online.](#)



River of Life

As a ministry of the Bryson City UMC, the River of Life has been missionally focused from the beginning, sharing the love of God with others through the gift of water that our Lord has shared with us.

Through donations from individuals, churches and other agencies the River of Life gives clean water and life to others around the world.

Over recent years, we have forged a strong bond with the people of Haiti. The need is great in this area and many have died from dysentery and cholera because of contaminated water.

By building wells and providing water buckets with filtration and sanitation supplies, we have saved many lives.

One of the challenges for Haiti has been the lack of clean water during times of flooding.

This year we are raising money for a filter system that can be carried by Dr. Eugene to his medical clinics with critical need for clean water.

We invite you to consider praying with us for the people of Haiti each day this prayer

God of many waters, thank you for the opportunity to serve. Remind us that all the children of Haiti are our children too. May the little we offer, give them hope in the name of Jesus, who is the living water of life. Amen.

If you are interested in learning more about how Bryson City UMC through the River of Life is ministering to the people of Haiti, contact Pastor Wayner at the church office or

[See More online.](#)



Stone Soup Update

After close to a year of gatherings and shaping of our group by the Holy Spirit, it is time to take the next step.

As the group has evolved we have not only enjoyed a time of eating together and fellowship but have grown through biblical study each week. In other

words, Stone Soup is a Sunday evening small group Bible study.

We will not have a "team leader" preparing the meal; rather each week will have a theme and everyone attending the small group will bring an appropriate item for that theme.

On Sunday, July 7th the theme will be Mexican. Bring refried beans, tortilla chips, (Margaret has already claimed home-made salsa) or any other Mexican food. Together we will be fed physically and spiritually.



Insights from the Intern Andrew Hammond

Yesterday, as I do most Wednesday's I went down to Deep Creek for a run around the loop and falls. This has become one of my favorite places in Bryson City to relax and take some time to enjoy the scenery of the park.

I also enjoy this time period every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday as a way to let my mind relax and reflect on what went on that day.

Anyways, yesterday the creek was especially busy with tubers floating down enjoying the summer day in the Smokies.

I ran by one family who had two kids floating in the water while the two parents stood on the side of the creek taking pictures and looking at the action taking place in the water. About a hundred steps after I saw them it hit me, this is often how American churches look today.

There are a few in the action doing ministry, and floating down the river. The rest of us are content with admiring those doing ministry rather than being the ones actually doing the ministry. In a way the American church has turned doing ministry into a spectator sport.

As a church may we be full of people floating down the river enjoying the adventure known as the Christian life, rather than being satisfied with spectating.

Benediction

From 2 Thess. 3:18 (NIV)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.