



# the heart♥beat

## WESLEY MEMORIAL

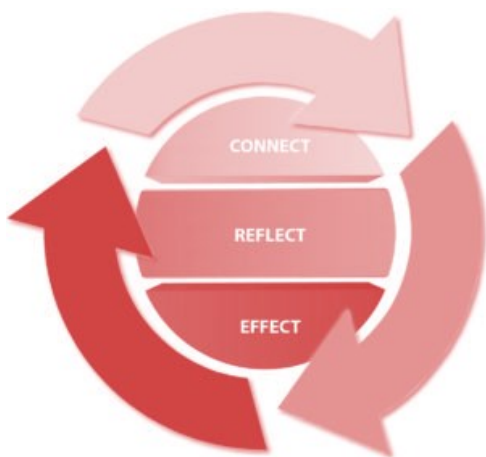
A UNITED METHODIST CONGREGATION  
High Point, North Carolina

Volume 26 No. 1

January 2018

## JOURNEY GROUPS

### Wesley Memorial's *New Initiative* for Personal and Community Transformation



We all know the power of small groups. Jesus had a small group; He called them disciples. John Wesley had one, too; he called it his “holy club.” Perhaps you’re in a small group yourself—whether a Unity Group, a Sunday School class, or some other kind of group, club, or circle that gets together regularly to grow together.

Lately, our Adult Spiritual Formation Team has been discerning God’s call in the life of WMUMC to offer a network of small groups that is focused on building relationships in order to promote transformation. We have noted how excellently our church provides *educational* small groups (for example, Sunday School, where you might hear from speakers each week, and Unity Groups, where the group reads a spiritual book together). This is wonderful.

We want to supplement those primarily educational opportunities with groups that are focused on *relationships* and *transformation*—instead of education.

This is where Journey Groups come in.

Journey Groups, launching later this month (January 21, to be exact), are gatherings of 3-8 people that regularly spend around 90 minutes together off the church campus *sharing life together*. They **connect** through sharing the struggles and triumphs of their week, **reflect** on the most recent Scripture and sermon proclaimed at WMUMC, and **effect** meaningful change for the transformation of their lives and their world.

We named them Journey Groups in order to reflect our belief that the spiritual life is a journey, and, as the old saying goes, a journey undertaken alone may go faster, but a journey undertaken together goes further.

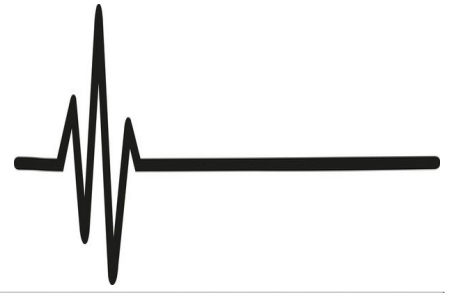
The *most* amazing thing about Journey Groups, however, is how easy they are. There is no one who has to be a leader—no one “teaches” or regularly has to come up with material. And there are virtually no rules for how to start, run, or end a group. We offer plenty of suggestions (see the Journey Group Start-Up Guides available around the church, or see the website at [wesleymemorial.org/journey](http://wesleymemorial.org/journey)), but it’s really up to you.

The only real goal of a Journey Group is to be focused on building deep and strong relationships with one another and engaging in Christian reflection on your lives and your experiences with God. This is how real *transformation* occurs, for yourself, your group, our church, and our world!

More information on Journey Groups is forthcoming; in the meantime, check out [wesleymemorial.org/journey](http://wesleymemorial.org/journey), and be prayerfully considering two or three friends God may be calling you to pursue a deeper spiritual relationship with through a Journey Group.



# Stories From Our Hearts



Wesley Memorial's purpose is to create and sustain spiritually healthy followers who live in ways that transform the world. **Stories From Our Hearts** is a way for members and friends of Wesley Memorial to share faith stories of transformation in the world.

## From Katherine McMullin and Laney Morris “Journey Groups”

During the process of discerning God's call for our new Journey Groups initiative, the Adult Spiritual Formation team decided to “beta test” the Journey Group meeting—that is, to test it out and make sure all our ducks were in a row. Boy, have we had fun!

One of the most exciting things about Journey Groups is that they are encouraged to meet *off* the church campus—either in a member's home, a coffee shop, wherever. This was good for us, since our raucous laughter has occasionally gotten us in trouble with other groups meeting down the hall from us at church!

Between laughs, though, we have shared intimately with one another. “Companionship” is a good word to describe the relationships we've built together. Each meeting, we chose to begin by asking each member, “How is it with your soul?” This is an old question that the founder of Methodism, John Wesley, loved to ask of himself, his friends, and his pastors. We reflected on our lives, our families, and our spirituality. The disparate ages and stages of life in our group, which you might expect would make it hard for us to relate to one another, instead created rich and

insightful connections and conversations. We understand one another so much better now, and have created, as the old hymn says, ties that bind!

We've also noticed how much better attention we pay during the sermons on weeks we know we'll be meeting with our Journey Group. Some of us even take notes now! It's neat to see how being in a Journey Group has enriched our worship life, too.

All in all, we can't say enough about Journey Groups and can't wait to roll them out later this month! Journey Groups are a great way to connect and grow in faith with others who are on this same spiritual journey.

For more information about Journey Groups, be sure to attend worship on January 21, and check out our website [wesleymemorial.org/journey](http://wesleymemorial.org/journey) or email [ebeall@wesleymemorial.org](mailto:ebeall@wesleymemorial.org).



## From Our Pastor

### “A Testimonial About The Power Of A Small Group”



I preached my first sermon on the First Sunday of Advent in 1980 when I was nineteen years old. So, I've been committed to serving the Lord through the local church for a long time. It has been a long journey for me and my family.

What has kept me consistently committed to the spiritual journey over the last 37 years? Many things, but one of the most important means of grace that has motivated me and sustained me over the years has been my commitment to staying in a small group where I experience close Christian fellowship and gracious accountability. My on-going experiences with my various small groups over the years have kept me growing in my faith and my dedication to Christ. My small groups have kept me focused on a pursuit of life in the Spirit which has enabled me to live a more balanced, holistic life. Whenever I have moved, one of the first things I did was to connect with a small group that would help me continue my transformation in Christ.

We are all very busy. It has not always been easy to make time for my small group meetings, but I have made that a priority. We make time for those things that we deem important. Being a husband and father, pastoring churches, pursuing extra graduate degrees, have all provided me with a very busy life. But through it all, I've stayed connected with a small group. There have been times when my small group met so early in the morning that nothing (but sleep!) could compete. My commitment to a small group has blessed both my biological family and my church family. The present group with whom I meet has been gathering for over a decade. These eight people have been a tremendous blessing to my life and I trust that I have been the same to them.

Over the years I have seen many people wax hot and grow cold with their spiritual lives. For me, participation in a small group helps me evaluate my life and prays with me and for me is central to my pursuit of God. It helps me to “go on to perfection” to use old Methodist language.

Over the next few months, you will be invited to join or create a small group where mutual accountability and prayer will occur. We are go-

ing to call them **Journey Groups**. Hopefully, these groups will be more about transformation than information. But, if you are already in such a group (a Unity Group, an Emmaus reunion group, a choir, a circle or a Sunday School) that is great. I hope that you will re-evaluate your group and make sure that it is a means of grace in your life, a place where mutual accountability and prayer is happening, a place that doesn't just inform you but transforms you. Jesus (and John Wesley) were strong proponents of spiritual growth through small groups, so I hope that we will heed their wisdom.

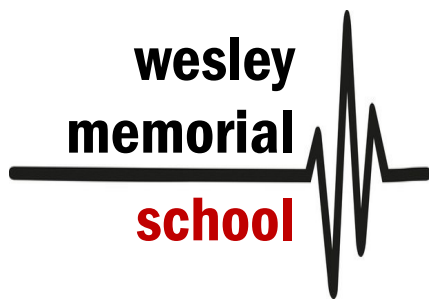
With Confidence in Christ,

**Pastor Jeff**

**“Confess your faults  
one to another  
and pray  
one for another...  
Bear ye  
one another's  
burdens  
and so fulfil  
the law of Christ.”**

*John Wesley*





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### **We had such a wonderful Advent & Christmas season!**

Our children participated in many opportunities to help others celebrate God's love through collection of Angel Tree items, treat bags for the church staff and volunteers, The Kindergarten Christmas Program, and concluding with an Epiphany walk (a retelling of the story of Christ's visitors, the Three Kings).



### **Our Wesley Memorial School Core Values**

**PREPARATION** – Children are prepared for academic success in an environment of excellence and creativity.

**NURTURE** – Children are nurtured through positive, supportive and caring relationships in a diverse community.

**PARTNERSHIP** – A Christ-centered environment is provided as we partner with families in their child's spiritual formation.

### **Happy New Year from all of us at Wesley Memorial School!**

With the New Year, it is time to start planning for next school year. Our 2018-2019 school year registration process begins with a series of open house opportunities. Please mark your calendars for this opportunity to visit, ask questions, and learn more about what we have to offer your children or grandchildren. Also, we welcome you to invite your friends or neighbors to our open house events. For more information, please contact Mrs. JoAnn Clifton, Director or Mrs. Susan Kelley, Associate Director.

### **Wesley Memorial School And Harris Teeter**

If you are a Harris Teeter VIC member, please link your card with our school code – **4419**. Our school will receive 2% of your HT brand purchases every time you shop. These funds will go into our Rainbow Scholarship Fund.

## WMS Open House Events

We welcome the opportunity to tell about our school and our commitment to quality early education for our littlest babies to our kindergarten students. Information will be available for **ALL age levels**, Infant through Kindergarten. Following a brief information session, we will have a tour through our classes.

**Friday, January 26, 2018, 9:15-10:30 am** for ALL AGES

**Wednesday, February 7, 2018, 9:15-10:30 am** for Kindergarten

**Friday, February 9, 2018, 9:15-10:30 am** for Pre-K4

**Registration for fall classes 2018-2019 begins February 5!**



## Special Dates

### Chick-Fil-A School Spirit Night

Monday, January 29 5:00 - 8:00 pm. Come on out to the Main Street Chick-Fil-A for some food and fellowship with other WMS families and church members. This is a fundraiser for our school so be sure to tell them at the register or the drive thru that you are with WMS!

### NO School

Monday, January 15 – Martin Luther King Day

### Winterfest

Friday, January 19. Come see some winter time fun set up for the children in the Fellowship Hall.

### Fall 2018 registration begins

Monday, February 5, 2018. See JoAnn Clifton or Susan Kelley for more information



**The Reverend Dr. Jeff Patterson leads a study that looks at the life of the historical Jesus. Our pastor's knowledge of the land of Israel and the Judaism of Jesus' day will set Jesus firmly in his historical context and show how the earliest followers of Jesus came to worship him as the Son of God and Lord of all Creation.**

**This study will take place at noon and 6:30 pm on Wednesdays January 10 - May 9 (except Holy Week).**





Our Prayer Shawl Ministry has made and delivered over 2000 shawls, blankets, sweaters and other items.

You are invited to join this wonderful group on Wednesdays at 1:30 pm in the Arts & Crafts Room. Contact

**Lee Huff**  
336.887.9165

**Karen Sumner**  
336.883.8721

**Linda Dale**  
336.884.5121



**Tuesday, January 16**  
**11:45 am, Dining Hall**

Please make your reservation by  
Friday, January 12  
(336.884.2204)

**Lunch Menu**

Chicken Pot Pie • Carrots • Slaw  
Bread • Dessert

## **A New Sermon Series**

**Sundays January 14, 21, 28 and  
February 4, 11**

# **“God Is Still Speaking”**

How do we hear God’s voice today? Many people sincerely want to follow God’s guidance but they struggle with hearing God’s voice telling them what is required. Using episodes from the lives of Samuel, Elijah, Isaiah, the Israelites wandering in the wilderness, and Jesus, we will learn how to better attune our hearts and minds to hear God speaking to us today.



## **January 14**

### **“Samuel’s Restless Night’s Sleep”**

(1 Samuel 3.1-10)

## **January 21**

### **“Elijah’s Pity Party”**

(1 Kings 19.1-13)

## **January 28**

### **“Isaiah’s Encounter”**

(Isaiah 6.1-8)

## **February 4**

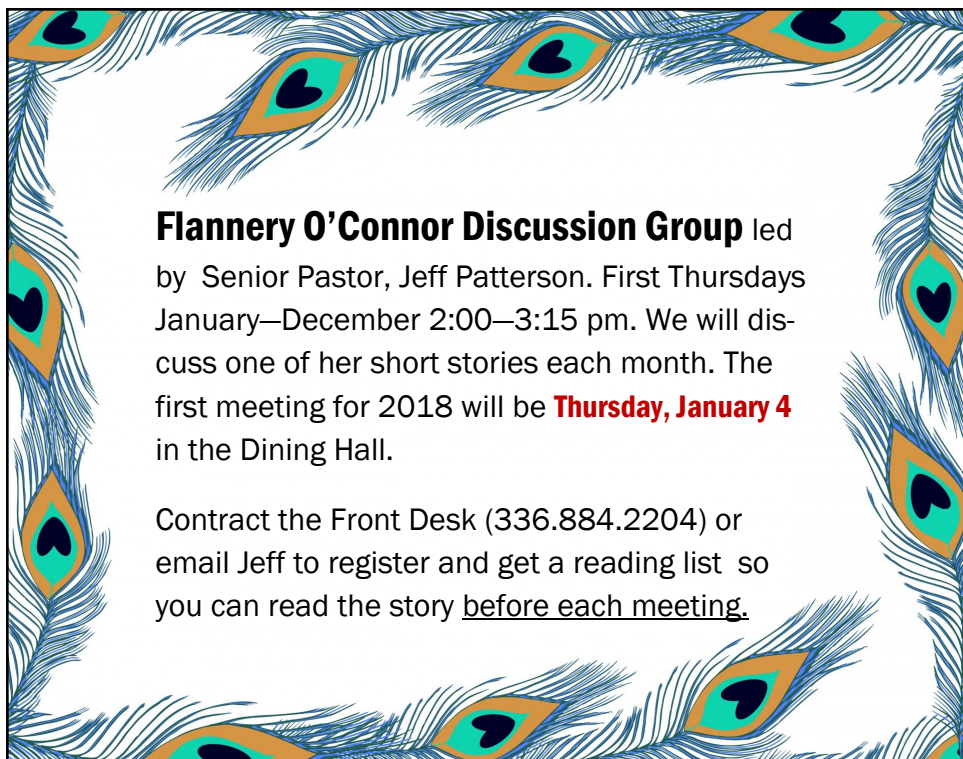
### **“The Hard-of-Hearing Israelites”**

(Psalm 95.1-11)

## **February 11**

### **“The Listening Sheep”**

(John 10.1-11)



**Flannery O'Connor Discussion Group** led by Senior Pastor, Jeff Patterson. First Thursdays January–December 2:00–3:15 pm. We will discuss one of her short stories each month. The first meeting for 2018 will be **Thursday, January 4** in the Dining Hall.


Contract the Front Desk (336.884.2204) or email Jeff to register and get a reading list so you can read the story before each meeting.

## Thank you Volunteers



At WMUMC, we are blessed with numerous volunteers who graciously share their time and talent to fulfill some important administrative and hospitality ministries at the church. From answering the phone or welcoming guests at the Front Desk to counting money on Mondays to folding and stuffing bulletins, we are grateful for all you do. We appreciate our Marthas and Stephens and their help with meal service and hospitality. We look forward to formally celebrating our volunteer ministers in February at a special **Volunteer Appreciation** event. Please watch for more details in the new year!

We depend on your service and celebrate the gifts each of you brings to your ministry. Thank you for all you do and we look forward to recognizing your service in February.



**Charge  
Conference**

**Tuesday  
January 16  
5:30 pm  
Circle View Room**

### Wednesday Dinners at 5:30 pm

Prepared by our Wesley 100 Holy Chefs and served in the Dining Hall. Please contact Cynthia Reddick at the Front Desk (336.884.2204) to make a reservation.

#### **January 10 (FREE)**

Chicken & Dumplings, Green Beans, Bread and Dessert

#### **January 17**

Pork Tenderloin, Macaroni & Cheese, Peas, Bread, and Dessert

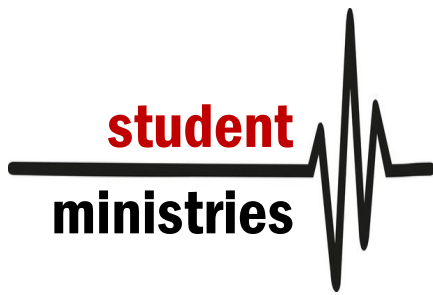
#### **January 24**

Baked Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Carrots, Bread and Dessert.

#### **January 31**

Hamburger Steak w/Gravy, Sweet Potatoes, Broccoli/Cauliflower Salad, Bread and Dessert.





**Steven Nelson**

Director of Student Ministries

336-812-4812

snelson@wesleyememorial.org

## WMUMC and High Point **Young Life** Partnership



God has moved in mighty ways to help us partner

with our area's High Point Young Life. We are sharing space with them to help with an existing need for office space. They have appreciated using our facilities for their club meetings, and first annual Mr. Christmas Tree event.

## Christmas Party

We had a blast at our Annual Christmas Party at the Nunn's House! Thank you for all that helped with providing our food and to the Nunn's for hosting us so well! We can't wait for next year!



## High School **Winter Retreat**

January 26-28, 2018

Calling all high school students and their friends! We are hitting the road for the slopes in 2018. Check your calendar and invite your friends to join us on Friday, January 26 through Sunday, January 28. The cost is \$200.00 per student with a \$50 non-refundable deposit. This trip is open to all students currently in grades 9–12. We will leave after school on Friday and come back Sunday evening. We are going to Teen Valley Ranch in Plumptree, NC.

Check it out at [www.tvr.org](http://www.tvr.org). There will be options to ski, snow tube or just hangout if you choose. This is a great trip to invite your friends for all the fun. TVR is a super awesome Christian Camp tucked in the heart of Avery County in the NC mountains. We will have a surprise destination on Sunday too! Go to [www.wesleyememorial.org/students](http://www.wesleyememorial.org/students) to register for this great trip. Questions? Contact Steven Nelson.





**Debbie Foust**

Director of Children's Ministries  
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dfoust@wesleymemorial.org

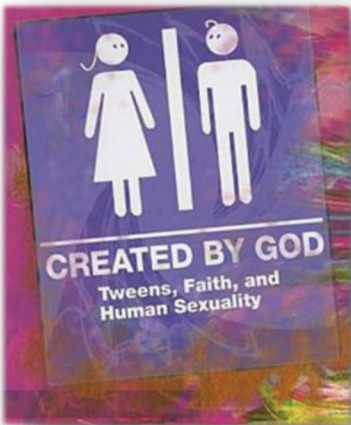


# Looking Ahead Into 2018...

## Created by God

for 5th graders and their parents

Thursday, February 22 through Saturday, February 24



Cost will be \$50 per child. This will cover book, meals (Friday dinner and Saturday lunch) and leaders. A letter with complete details and registration information will be sent to all 5th grade families in early January. *This is open to anyone in the community so feel free to invite friends.* For more information please contact Debbie Foust or Kim Suda at [ksuda@wesleymemorial.org](mailto:ksuda@wesleymemorial.org).

## Bible Explorers

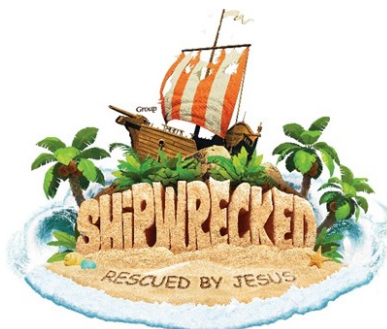
Sunday afternoon programs for  
Kindergarteners through 5th grade

Winter Session of **Bible Explorers** for kindergarten through second graders will begin, Sunday, February 25 from 4:45-6:00 pm. This weekly Christ-centered program helps children grow as whole persons and learn to make Christ Lord in every aspect of life. Come have fun with your friends while learning God's Word in fun and exciting ways.

## Vacation Bible School

July 16-19, 9:00 am -12:30 pm

Venture onto an uncharted island where kids survive and thrive. Anchor kids in the truth that Jesus carries them through life's storms. For three-year olds (must be 4 by August 31, 2018) through fifth grade.



## Save the Dates

Here is what's coming up in Children's Ministries.

### February 2

Family Swim Night

### February 11

Volunteer Appreciation  
Breakfast

### February 22-24

Created By God  
Human Sexuality

### March 23

3rd-5th Grade  
Easter Scavenger Hunt

### March 25

Easter Community Event

### June 18-21

Music Camp

### July 16-19

Vacation Bible School





**December  
2017**





## We Remember and Honor our Loved Ones

Gifts received November 2017

### In Memory of:

**Margaret Anne (Peggy) Donald Amos:** Jerry & Louella Stinson

**Geneva Spratt Craig:** Ann & Bob Brinson, Butch & Suzie Farabow, Warren & Joni Lackey, Fred Lind

**Richard Joseph Crowder:** Art & Peggy Honeycutt

**Frances Louise Davis Cushwa:** Jerry & Louella Stinson

**Rosemarie Draelos (Mother of Michael Draelos):** Bonnie & David Horney, Wade & Lois Markham

**George Michael Fowler:** 1987 High School Class Reunion

**Jane Hatfield (Sister of Barry Cheek):** Warren & Joni Lackey, George & Julie Sanders

**Lou Dean Graham Howard:** Jerry & Louella Stinson

**Ray Herman Keever (Father of Nancy Ilderton):** Pat & Everette Grayson, Raymond & Liz Rogers

**E. Purcell (Purt) Kimsey:** Barbara & Fred Wilson

**Chris Kiziah (Brother of Lisa Hawley):** Charlotte Amos, Mr. & Mrs. Leland Averett, Iris Horner & Linda Baker, Paula & Greg Batts, Mr. & Mrs. Dwight Bumgarner, Bill & Sissie Burgess, Cynthia Carter, Marty & Cathy Cline, John & Anne Compton, Jennifer Covington, Ned & Katherine Covington, Dr. & Mrs. Harry Culp, Jackson Dobbins, Lucille Duncan, Mr. & Mrs. William Fenn, Jr., Mr. & Mrs. Everette Grayson, Sara Hoffman, Rick & Jill Holbert, Mr. & Mrs. Philip & Sylvia Van Hoy, Sally Swartzberg Koblitz & Family, Lois & Wade Markham, Mr. & Mrs. Ken McAllister, Linda & Dave McCoy, Kathy & Kenneth McDowell, Karen Odom, Emily Ragsdale, Mary Leigh Ralph, Royster & Donna Tucker, John Womack, Jr.

**Warren Strupe Lackey:** Susan Allred, Jerry Bain, Mr. & Mrs. David Cain, Daniel & Linda Dale, Butch & Suzie Farabow, Nan & Jack Flynn, Jean Gooding, Mr. & Mrs. Everette Grayson, Bill & Martha Petty Gribble, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Griggs, Mr. & Mrs. Harold Johnson, Jr., Tom Kearns, Jr., Mr. & Mrs. Brandon Kivett, Janet Kivett & Lisa Davidson, Warren Lackey & Family, Barbara & Bart Lassiter, Jim & Sandra Marsh, Betty & Harold Martin, Mrs. Jane Meekins, A Friend, W. Gaston Penry, Floyd & Dixie Pugh, June Safrit, George & Julie Sanders, Jerry & Louella Stinson, Charlie & Patsy Surles, Dr. & Mrs. Mark Warburton, Barbara & Fred Wilson, Sarah Woollen, Y's Mens Club - High Point YMCA

**Katherine Noel Johnson:** 1987 High School Class Reunion

**Stephanie Johnson:** 1987 High School Class Reunion

**Wanna McAnally:** Jerry & Louella Stinson

**Edward Alan McGeogh (Brother of Susan Sumpter):** Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Needham, Jr.

**Wendy Lynette Moore:** 1987 High School Class Reunion

**Joseph Price:** Nancy Martin

**Byron Starnes:** Peggy & Art Honeycutt

**Horace Dean Steadman, Jr.:** Jerry & Louella Stinson

**Jean Weaver Stevens Stockton:** 8<sup>th</sup> Day Unity Group, Pat & Everette Grayson, John Peeler, Raymond & Liz Rogers, June Safrit, Patsy & Charlie Surles

**John W. Thomas, Jr. (Father of John W. Thomas, III):** Karen Odom, Bill & Emilie Rogers, Raymond & Liz Rogers

**Edward Joseph von der Lippe:** Jerry & Louella Stinson

our church  
family

### In Memory of (cont'd)

**Calvin Cowboy Whitley:** 1987 High School Class Reunion

**Sue Anderson Wood:** Kelly McPhilliamy, Jerry & Louella Stinson, Leigh Wagner

**Tammy York:** 1987 High School Class Reunion

### In Honor of:

**Rev. Erin Beall:** Warren Lackey

**Cindy Dominick:** Warren Lackey

**Fish Unity Group:** Anne & Jimmy Carroll

**Adelaide Stine:** Susan Hedrick

**Rev. Jared Stine:** Warren Lackey

**Nat Harrison (on his 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday):** Sarah Woollen

**Rev. Jeff Patterson:** Warren Lackey

**Ann & Vann York:** Sarah Woollen

### In Memoriam

**Rachel Leonard Garner** December 1, 2017

### Sympathies

Jackie Gillespie and family upon the death of her mother; **Ivy Rene Brown Riggs** on November 26, 2017

William "Bill" Garner Jr. and family upon the death of his wife; **Rachel Leonard Garner** on December 1, 2017

February  
heart♥beat  
Deadline

Friday, January 19  
9:00 am

[showell@wesleymemorial.org](mailto:showell@wesleymemorial.org)



The UMW Board will meet Monday, Jan. 8, 10:30 am in the Small Dining Room.

The Carolina Christmas Bazaar made approximately \$15,222. The UMW Board has determined which local groups will receive funds from the event in 2018. Thank you again to everyone that supported the Bazaar.

## Circle Meetings in January

**Faith** - Sunday, January 21, 3:30 pm. Location TBA

**Circle #6** - Monday, January 8, 7:00 pm at the home of Joyce Stephens, 1113 Gatehouse, Pledge Service.

**Circle # 8** - TBA

**Circle #9** - Tuesday, January 16, 10:30 am in the Dining Hall

**Circle #11**—Monday, January 25, 11:30am in the Small Dining Room

**Angel Tree** and **Friendship**  
will not meet in January

END OF YEAR  
**GIVING**  
STATEMENTS

Will be mailed out by  
**January 31**

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A UNITED METHODIST CONGREGATION  
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